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A

NEW MORAL SYSTEM

OF

NATURAL HISTORY,

Or, the BEAUTIES of

NATURE DISPLAYED;

In the moſt ſingular, curious, and beautiful

QUADRUPEDS, and BIRDS,

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

In the Hiſtory of the ENGLISH SONG BIRDS,

Practical Inſtructions for chuſing, breeding, feeding, and teaching them to ſing.

" *Who can this field of miracles ſurvey,*
" *And not with* GALEN *all in rapture ſay,*
" *Behold a* GOD, *adore him, and obey.*

BLACKMORE on the Creation.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

NATURAL HISTORY, in its general ſenſe comprehending the whole produce of the creation as conſiſting of beaſts, birds, fiſhes, inſects, reptiles, flowers, plants, ſtones, foſſils, and minerals, it was impoſſible to include in a volume ſo ſmall as the following, even the names of the different articles. We were therefore, obliged to make a ſelection of a part, which we conſidered the moſt intereſting, and worthy the attention of the pupil ſtudying that ſcience of nature. Conformable to this neceſſity, we have choſen the beaſts and birds as the ſubjects of the pages ſubjoined.

IN the progreſs of the work, thoſe beaſts and birds are particulary deſcribed that were diſtinguiſhed by any peculiar characteriſtics of beauty, utility, curioſity, or wiſdom in their formation. It has been our endeavour to trace more thoſe grand outlines of ſublime wonders that elevate the heart to the creator, than to deſcend

to the minute inveſtigation of a mere ſpeculatiſt. For in the work of the ingenious Blackmore,

" Who can this field of miracles ſurvey,
" And not with GALEN* all in rapture ſay,
" Behold a GOD, adore him, and obey!

We have been more anxious to vindicate the dignity of nature, than to debaſe it with puerile reſearches. Whenever any grand deviation was abſervable in one beaſt or bird from another, we made free to ſearch for the final cauſe, independent of former opinions, however ſanctioned by authority, when they happened not to be congenial with our own ſentiments. To trace the final cauſes, or the reaſons of the difference in the various claſſes of birds and beaſts, is the firſt and moſt eſſential object to purſue in the ſtudy of nature. To look for differences

* GALEN was profeſſedly an athieſt, until he providentially ſaw a human ſkeleton which, conſidering attentively, with regard to the wiſdom diſplayed in its ſtructure, was the immediate cauſe of his not only believing in a God, but becoming a moſt zealous profeſſor of religion.

differences as ſome have done, only to gratify a prepoſſeſſion for novelty, without improving the mind or amending the heart, is to turn Natural Hiſtory into a raree-ſhow, inſtead of adopting it as a ſcience.

To avoid that tedious detail of deſcription which tires by its ſameneſs, and confuſes by its intricacy, we have ſpecified only thoſe characteriſtics that were eſſential to notice, in order to be able to diſtinguiſh one animal from another. But in this, the peculiar beauties are more particularly noticed than any deviation of colour or form that had no quality to recommend it to our attention.

With reſpect to the arrangement, we have endeavoured to preſent it as ſyſtematically to our readers as an abridgement could poſſibly admit. That the ſtudent might know of what ſpecies every bird and beaſt was which this volume contains, they are deſcribed in the order of their reſpective claſſes. Whenever there were more of a ſpecies than the limits of the work would admit of being deſcribed, they are ſpecified by name according to the moſt accurate naturaliſts.

It being the deſire of the Proprietor of this Library, to render every part of it as complete as in his power, he has been at the greateſt expence to obtain the moſt correct drawings of the different birds and beaſts in this volume; for he conceived that nothing can tend ſo much to impreſs any verbal deſcription on the mind, as the addition of a tableture perfectly repreſenting the original. Impreſſed with this opinion, he hopes his endeavours to aid the undertaking with all that could render it inſtructive and intereſting, will be received as a ſmall token of that reſpect he has for the public patronage he now ventures to ſolicit.

Having been, thus, obliged to confine ourſelves to Beaſts and Birds in this volume, and conceiving the ſubject of Natural Hiſtory too important to be paſſed over thus abridged, we have already in great forwardneſs, another volume, which will compriſe the moſt intereſting of inſects, reptiles, plants, and flowers, ſelected in the ſame manner as the birds and beaſts are in the ſucceeding pages.

NATURAL HISTORY.

QUADRUPEDS.

THEIR GENERAL NATURE.

INTRODUCTION. QUADRUPEDS, after man, require in Natural History the next attention, and for the following reasons.—Being of similar structure with ourselves, having instincts and properties superior to all other parts of animated nature, affording great assistance to man, and sometimes exercising the greatest hostilities, must render them the most interesting part of the creation, and claim the first attention of the naturalist.

SIMILITUDE TO MAN. Like us, they are elevated above the birds by their young being produced alive; above the claſs of fiſhes by breathing through the lungs; above inſects, by blood circulating through their veins; and moſtly above all the parts of creation, by being partly or entirely covered with hair. Since quadrupeds thus approach us in our animal perfections, how little reaſon have we to be vain of our corporeal qualities.

FIGURE. The heads of quadrupeds are generally adapted to their mode of living. It is ſharp in ſome to enable them to turn up the earth where they find their food depoſited. In others it is long to afford room for the olfactory nerves. In many it is ſhort and thick to ſtrengthen the jaw, and thus to qualify it for combat. Their legs and feet are entirely formed to the nature and exigencies of the animal. When the body is heavy, the legs are thick and ſtrong, when it is light, they are active and ſlender. Thoſe that feed on fiſh;

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fiſh are made for ſwimming, by having webbed feet. Thoſe that prey upon the animals are provided with claws, which they can draw and ſheath at pleaſure. More peaceable and domeſtic animals have generally hoofs, which are more neceſſary for defence than attack, and enable them to traverſe the immenſe tracts which they are deſtined to paſs over either to ſerve man, ſearch for food, or avoid hoſtility.

Disposition for prey. Beaſts of prey ſeldom devour each other. Nothing but the extremities of hunger induce them to this, and when they are obliged to ſeek ſuch a ſubſiſtence, the weakeſt affords the ſtrongeſt a diſagreeable repaſt. The deer or goat is what they particularly ſeek after, which they either take by purſuit or ſurpriſe.

Natural Sagacity. In uninhabited countries by man, ſome animals have been found in a kind of civil ſociety. Here they ſeem as ſtrangers to mutual

friendſhip and benevolence. But when man obtrudes on their haunts, their bond of ſociety is diſſolved, and every animal ſeeks ſafety in ſolitude.

Cloathing of Animals. In the colder climates they are covered with a fur, that preſerves them from the inclemencies of the weather; in the more temperate, they have ſhort, and in the warm, they have ſcarcely any hair on their bodies. Thus we perceive they are provided with cloathing according to what the nature of their ſituation may require.

Ferocity. Where men are the moſt barbarous, animals are the moſt ferocious. Thoſe produced in climates of extreme heat poſſeſs a nature ſo ſavage that they are ſcarcely ever tamed.

Food. The place and nature of their food is adapted to the ſize and ſpecies of the animal. Thoſe that feed in the valley are generally larger than thoſe that

eat

eat on the mountain. In warm climates their plenteous and nutritive food render them remarkable for their bulk. Milk is their firſt aliment.

PRODUCE. Beaſts that are large, uſeleſs, and formidable, produce but few at a time, while thoſe that are ſmall and inoffenſive, are more prolific. This ſeems to be adapted with moſt admirable proportion; for were the ſmaller and weaker to have leſs offspring, their races might be deſtroyed from being ſo frequently made the prey of ſtronger animals.

COURAGE. In defence of their young no danger or terror can drive animals from their protection. Such as have force and ſubſiſt by rapine are moſt formidable in their ferocious courage.

GENERATION. Each ſpecies of quadrupeds bring forth their young at the time when nature moſt plenteouſly affords them their reſpective nutriment. Thoſe

animals which treaſure proviſions for the winter produce their young in January, by which time they are able to collect ſufficient ſubſiſtence for their offspring. Thoſe quadrupeds that are called oviperous from being hatched from eggs, ſuch as the crocodile, turtle, &c. are the moſt prolific. They are no ſooner hatched than they attain their utmoſt ſtate of animal perfection.

Every ſpecies of animals has its peculiar cries, by which the ſame kinds are known to each other, and by which they communicate general expreſſions of their paſſions, as fear, joy, and deſire. Thus has the allwiſe, bountiful, and divine Creator, in his infinite wiſdom formed a race of animals for the uſe of mankind, and granted us dominion over them, which ſhould never be exerciſed but with the greateſt humanity.

HORSE.

OF all quadrupeds, the horſe is the moſt generous, ſerviceable, and beautiful. There is none to which man is more indebted. Wild horſes herd together in aſſemblies of five or ſix hundred. They depute one as their ſentinel to guard the reſt while

ſleeping. Arabia is the moſt famous for this animal in its wild ſtate. But the Engliſh horſe excels all others in ſize, utility and ſwiftneſs. It is longer lived than the Barb, and more hardy than the Perſian. The famous Childers was ſo fleet as to run a mile in a minute. The Engliſh hunters are allowed to be the moſt uſeful horſes in the world. To give a particular deſcription of this well known animal is unneceſſary, for there is ſcarcely a country in which he is not found. Spain, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Holland, Flanders, France, Crete, Morocco, Turkey, Perſia, India, China, Tartary, and Arabia, abound with ſpecies differing according to the ſoil and climate of the country. But the general received opinion is that the native clime of this noble animal is Arabia, to which every country above mentioned, is indebted for the breed they have of horſes.

Its diſpoſition to war cauſed it to be conſecrated to Mars, the god of battle.

Of

Of their hides are made collars, traces, and harneſſes; their mane and tails are uſed in perukes, lines for angling, covering for ſeats of chairs, cords, and floor-cloths.

Although horſes are endowed with vaſt ſtrength, and great powers, they ſeldom exert either to the prejudice of their maſters; on the contrary, they will endure the greateſt fatigues for our benefit. They fear and love the human race, and have a benevolent diſpoſition. Such is the ſtrength of the Engliſh draught horſe, that one in London has been ſeen to draw the weight of three tuns. In Yorkſhire, pack-horſes have uſually carried a burden of 420 lb. over the higheſt hills.

A S S.

THIS reſembles the horſe very nearly in form. But being of diſtinct ſpecies, in a ſtate of nature, they are entirely different. It is found wild in the deſerts of Lybia and Numidia, where it is caught with traps. Of their ſkins is made ſhagreen leather. The plantain is

their

their favourite vegetable. They are capable of ſcenting their driver, or owner, at a great diſtance, and will diſtinguiſh him in a crowd. In proportion to ſize, the aſs is ſtronger than the horſe, and will be ſupported with much leſs care and ſuſtenance. In ſome countries they are ſo large, that in Spain a jack aſs is frequently ſeen fifteen hands high. Of all animals that are covered with hair the aſs is the leaſt ſubject to vermin. His period of exiſtence is from twenty to twenty-five years. Although he can endure more fatigue and hardſhip than a horſe, he has much leſs ſleep. It is related that this animal will never ſtir if he be blinded.

The aſs was originally imported into America by the Spaniards, who now hunt them for their diverſion.

In his natural ſtate, he is fleet, fierce, and formidable, but when domeſticated, he is the moſt gentle of animals, and aſſumes patience and ſubmiſſion that is even humbler than his ſituation. He is temperate in eating, and is contented with the refuſe of the vegetable

table creation. With reſpect to his drink he is extremely delicate; for he will drink at none but the cleareſt brooks, and thoſe to which he is moſt accuſtomed. When young he is ſprightly and tolerably handſome. But age deprives him as well as the other parts of animated nature of their qualities; for he then becomes ſlow, ſtupid, and obſtinate. The ſhe aſs goes eleven months with young, and never produces more than one at a time.

The medicinal virtues of her milk in reſtoring health and vigour to our debilitated conſtitutions, might alone entitle the harmleſs and inoffenſive aſs to a kinder return than it meets with from their inhuman and ungrateful maſters.

ZEBRA.

ZEBRA.

THIS animal is the moſt wild and beautiful in nature, and is principally found in the ſouthern parts of Africa. It is ſaid to ſurpaſs all others in ſwiftneſs and even ſtands better and firmer upon its legs than the horſe. There was one in England that would eat bread, meat, and tobacco. This differs in nature from

from the wild aſs, with which it has frequently been confounded in the deſcription given of it by ſome naturaliſts. In ſhape, the zebra rather reſembles the mule than the horſe or the aſs. It is leſs than the former and yet longer than the latter. Its ears are longer than thoſe of the horſe, but yet ſhorter than thoſe of the aſs. It has a large head, ſtrait back, well-placed legs, and a tufted tail. The ſkin is cloſe and ſmooth, and the hind quarters round and well formed. The male is white and brown. The female white and black. Theſe colours are ſo regularly ſtriped that they appear as if painted, to reſemble ſo many ribbons laid over its body. So that at a ſmall diſtance the zebra appears to have been dreſſed by art, inſtead of being thus moſt admirably adorned by nature.

MULE. This animal is bred between an horſe and ſhe aſs, or a jack aſs and a mare. In Spain they are uſed to draw people of the firſt diſtinction, and they are, there, ſo valuable as one of them frequently to coſt fifty or ſixty guineas. The common mule is very healthy, and lives about thirty years.

RUMINATING

RUMINATING ANIMALS

Are ſuch as are diſtinguiſhed for chewing their cud and being the moſt mild and eaſily tamed. The foreſt or the carnivorous kinds ſeek their food in gloomy ſolitude. But theſe range together in herds, and the very meaneſt of them unite in each others defence. The food of ruminating animals being eaſily procured, they ſeem more indolent and leſs artful than the carnivorous, or thoſe which feed on fleſh.

BULL, OX, AND COW.

OF all ruminating animals, theſe deſerve the firſt rank with reſpect to their ſize, beauty, and ſervice. Many of our Engliſh peaſants have only a cow, from which they obtain a livelihood. The cow improves

improves the paſture, which affords nouriſhment. Their age is calculated by their horns and teeth. Of all creatures, this animal is moſt affected by difference of ſoil, which being luxuriant, increaſes the growth of the bull, ox, and cow, to a conſiderable ſize, which is as diminutive in more ſterile countries. In Great Britain, the ox is the only horned animal that will apply his ſtrength in the ſervice of mankind. There is ſcarcely any part of this ſpecies of animal without utility. The blood, fat, marrow, hide, hair, horn, hoofs, milk, cream, whey, urine, liver, gall, ſpleen, and bones have each their particular ſerviceable qualities. The hide ſerves for boots, ſhoes, and many other accommodations in life. Vellum and gold-beater's ſkin are obtained from this animal. The hair mixed with lime cements our buildings. Combs, knife-handles, boxes, buttons, and drinking veſſels are made of their horns, which are, likewiſe, uſed ſucceſsfully as antidotes for poiſon, plague, and ſmall-pox. Glue is made from the chips of their hoofs,

and

and the parings of the raw hides. Their bones are ſubſtitutes for ivory. Their feet afford an oil much uſed in harneſs. The blood is an excellent manure for fruit trees, and is the chief ingredient of Pruſſian blue. The gall, liver, ſpleen, and urine are uſed in medicine. Milk, cheeſe, cream, and butter are too common to require particular mention. Their fleſh afford different ſorts, ſuch as veal and beef, is calculated to invigorate the weak, ſupport the laborious, and gratify the more voluptuous

THE URUS, or wild bull, is generally found in Lithuania, a province of Poland.

THERE are ſome other ſpecies of the cow-kind, ſuch as the biſon, bonaſus, zebu, beeve hog, buffalo, and Siberian cow.

The BUFFALO.

THE Buffallo is more clumſy and leſs beautiful than the cow. His ſkin is alſo harder, thicker, blacker, and thinner of hair. His fleſh is hard, black, and diſagreeable to the taſte and ſmell. The milk is abundant, but not ſo good as that which the cow affords. However, in the warm countries, the milk of the buffalo

falo is uſed to make cheeſe and butter. The hide, from its thickneſs and impenetrability, is dreſſed, and greatly uſed in that article which is called, from the name of the animal, buff-leather.

Two buffaloes yoked together draw more than four ſtrong horſes. They draw coaches in the Eaſt-Indies. When purſued they often ſwim over the largeſt rivers with the greateſt facility. This creature is found wild in many parts of Africa and Aſia. They are, likewiſe, very common in Italy, from whence they were brought into Lombardy, A. D. 591. They grow to twice the ſize of our largeſt oxen, and their horns are ſo large, that in the muſeum, a pair is to be ſeen that meaſure ſix feet ſix inches and half in length, weighs forty-two pounds, and hold in their vacuities ten quarts of water Ariſtotle properly calls theſe creatures wild oxen.

The Buffalo, like other animals that feed on graſs, is inoffenſive, if undiſturbed. But when wounded, or even fired at, their fury is ungovernable.

In India, there is a ſmall buffalo. Theſe are thoſe, we above obſerved, are uſed to draw their coaches.

In the northern parts of America, there is another animal larger than the ox, and has ſhort black horns, a large beard, and a head ſo covered with hair, that he has a moſt formidable appearance.

ANIMALS of the SHEEP and GOAT Kind.

ALTHOUGH the ſheep and goat ſpecies comprehend many animals of a ſimilar nature, yet they are in themſelves very different with regard to their bodies, horns, food, and covering.

If we conſider the utility and inoffenſive nature of theſe animals, we ſhall perceive they have been long reclaimed from their wild ſtate, and adapted to domeſtic ſervitude. They both appear to require protection from man, whom they reward with the greateſt favors. They ſeem, indeed, to court his ſociety. The ſheep is the moſt ſerviceable, while the goat has more attachment and ſenſibility. In the earlieſt ages, the goat appears to have been the greater favourite, and, among the poor, continues ſo at preſent. But the ſheep has long ſince become the principal object of human care and attention. We ſhall, therefore, firſt deſcribe

THE SHEEP.

THIS animal in its tame ſtate, is the moſt harmleſs and defenceleſs. In its wild ſtate, it is ſaid to be of a vaſt ſwiftneſs, and are only found in great flocks. When attacked, they immediately form a ring, and the ewes fall into the centre, when they are defended by the rams, in the moſt vigorous manner. The woolly

woolly ſheep is found only in Europe, and ſome of the temperate provinces of Aſia. It is, when fat, awkward in its motions, eaſily fatigued, and freqnently ſinks under the weight of its own corpulency, and rich fleeces which it yields twice a year. There is ſcarce any part of this admirable animal that has not its particular uſe.

When two rams meet together they engage very fiercely. Every ewe knows its lamb, and every lamb the bleating of its ewe, even amidſt flocks containing thouſands. They chiefly feed in England on downs, in paſtures, young ſpringing corn lands, or turnip fields, but the downs have from long experience been found to prove much the moſt beneficial, on account of air and dryneſs of ſoil, for no animal is ſo ſubject to the rot, as the ſheep, if fed on marſhy land. Every year the whole flock conſiſting of ewes, weathers, and lambs are ſheared. Weathers have generally more and better wool than the ewes. Such is their utility in agriculture, that a hundred ſheep will manure eight acres of ground.

In Ireland they have a ſpecies of this animal that is called many-horned ſheep. They are of a dark brown colour, and under the outward coat of hair, they have a fine, ſhort, and ſoft fur that reſembles wool.

In Spain their ſheep produce a wool ſuperior to that of any other country. It is ſo excellent in its quality, that our clothiers and hatters have been obliged to purchaſe it at a very great price, in order to enable them to manufacture ſome of their eſtimable articles.

The utility of ſheep to this country, may be ſeen by the following moderate calculation of fleece wool annually produced by their growth.

According to the calculation of Young, in his ſix months tour, there are 466,532 packs of wool manufactured in Great-Britain and Ireland, and 285,000 packs exported unmanufactured. The value, therefore, of all the fleece-wool, thus annually derived from our ſheep, eſtimating it at an average price of 7l. per pack, muſt amount to 5,260,724l. The quantity of wool manufactured is eſtimated to afford 12,434,855l. yearly employment

employment for the idduſtrious artizan. And as the whole of our manufactures were ſaid not to exceed, at the above period of calculation. 44,350,529l. the article of wool alone may be conſidered as equal, in value, to one third of all the reſt of our produce and manufactures. But what evinces ſtill more the value of ſheep to Great-Britain and her dependencies, is, that the wool affords employment to 1,557,834, out of 4,250,434 that are ſuppoſed to be the laborious part of the people.

Broad-tailed Sheep, are found in Tartary, Arabia, Perſia, Barbary, Syria, and Egypt. Such is their weight of wool on their tails, that Pennant ſays, ſome have been known to weigh fifty pounds; to preſerve the wool from wet, dirt, and injury, they are uſually ſupported by a ſmall board that runs upon wheels.

Of the ſheep kind there are beſides, the Strepſuckeros found in Crete, and other iſlands of the Archipelago; the Guinea ſheep, and the Moufflon.

The

THE GOAT.

THIS animal differs moſt eſſentially from the Sheep, in being covered with hair, inſtead of wool. Its chief delight is to climb the higheſt and ſteepeſt precipices. Neither the ſtorm terrifies, or the rain incommodes the Goat. According to the climate it will have from two to five kids. The milk they afford is ſweet, nutritive, and medicinal. The Goat is found in every part of the world. Every clime ſeems congenial with its nature. It may juſtly be called a citizen of the world. Its exiſtence however ſeldom extends beyond 11 or 12 years.

THE IBEX, or Stone-Goat, are ſaid to have horns two yards long, which encreaſe by knots annually.

OF Goats there are the Goat of Angora, Syrian Goat, the ſmall America Goat, blue Goat, Juda and Siberian Goat, and Greenland Goat, which has horns an ell long, are all diſtinct ſpecies of this uſeful and general animal.

THE

THE CAMELOPARD.

THIS creature ſomewhat reſembles in form the deer without its ſymmetry. Theſe animals have been found eighteen feet high, and ten from the ground to the top of the ſhoulder. But the hinder part is ſo low that, when ſtanding, it greatly reſembles a dog ſitting. Neither the form or temper adapts this animal for hoſtility

or

or defence. It is, therefore, timorous and inoffenſive, and, notwithſtanding its ſize, endeavours rather to avoid than attack an enemy. It is chiefly, a native of Ethiopia. The extraordinary length of the fore legs obliges him to divide them when he feeds on vegetables. To avoid this trouble, it ſubſiſts moſtly on the leaves of trees. This animal is very rare in Europe. But in earlier times it was known to the Romans; for among the aſſemblage of eaſtern animals on the celebrated Prænestine pavement, made by the direction of Sylla, the Camelopard is found. JULIUS CÆSAR, likewiſe, exhibited this animal among others in the Circæan games.

THIS creature is called by the Greeks the Camelopardalis, from ſuppoſing it to be generated between a camel and a leopard.

So uncommon is this creature, that not above one or two have been ſeen in Europe for many hundred years. Some have been found to have their necks 15 feet long. When they walk, they move both their fore-legs together.

THE

THE ANTELOPE.

WHAT moſtly diſtinguiſhes this animal from the goat and deer is their horns being annulated and twiſted, their fore legs having bunches of hair, the lower part of their ſides having a ſtreak of black, red, or brown, and the internal part of their ears having three white ſtreaks.

THE

The Antelope generally inhabits the warmeſt climates, except thoſe in America. It is equally active and elegant, and is timid, lively and vigilant. Like the hare, the hind legs are the longeſt. They imitate the ſheep, in having cloven feet and permanent horns, which are ſmaller in the female than the male Antelope.

The chace of theſe animals is a favourite diverſion in the eaſt. In fleetneſs they exceed the greyhound; this cauſes the ſportſman very frequently to train a falcon to overtake them in the chace. Their ſwiftneſs has frequently afforded many beautiful ſimilies, and alluſions in the eaſtern poetry. Of all creatures in the world the eye of the Antelope is ſuppoſed to be the moſt beautiful. It blends meekneſs with brilliancy. Some ſpecies of the Antelope form herds of two and three thouſand. They generally feed on hilly countries. Moſt ſyſtematic writers have erroneouſly ranked this animal with the goat kind; for it forms an intermediate genus between the goat and the deer. The texture and permanency of their horns agree with the

firſt

firſt while their fleetneſs and elegance agree with the latter.

Of Antelopes there are, beſides that before deſcribed, the following ſpecies:—common, blue Egyptian, Bezoar, harneſſed, African, royal, Indoſtan, white-footed, ſwift, red, ſtriped, Chineſe, Scythian, Cervine, and Senegal Antelope.

ANIMALS of the DEER Kind.

ALTHOUGH the bull and ſtag do not reſemble each other in ſhape and form, yet their internal ſtructure is very ſimilar. All the internal difference between them is the deer kind having no gall-bladder, while their ſpleen is proportionably larger, and the kidnies differently formed. The firſt animal of the deer kind that claims our deſcription is the Elk.

The

THE ELK OR FEMALE MOOSE.

THIS animal is a native of both the old and new continent. It is called in Europe, the Elk, and in America the Mooſe Deer. It is ſometimes taken in the foreſts of Germany and Ruſſia. But they are found in great numbers in North America. Amid the various accounts given of this animal, the following is the

the moſt authentic. A female Elk only twelve months old, which was in the poſſeſſion of the late MARQUIS, of ROCKINGHAM, meaſured to the top of the withers fifteen hands. The length from noſe to tail was ſeven feet. It had a ſhort neck, erect thick mane, cloven hoofs, and a body covered with hoary black hair. It was brought from America, and called therefore, a Mooſe Deer. As this was ſo young, we may conclude the Elk in its wild and natural ſtate, grows to an amazing height. Some aſſert it is found in America as high as twelve feet. In all countries, this animal is timorous, gentle, and inoffenſive. It ſwims and runs with incredible ſwiftneſs. The Elk delights in cold countries when they feed on graſs in ſummer, and on the bark of trees in winter. In ſnowy weather they form themſelves in herds and ſeek the fir-foreſts, where they remain while they can find the leaſt ſubſiſtence from the bark of the trees. At this time they are moſtly hunted by the natives of New England, Nova Scotia, and Canada in America; by the inhabitants

of Lapland, Norway, Sweden, and Ruſſia in Europe; and by thoſe who dwell in the N. E. parts of Tartary, and Siberia in Aſia. The chace of them frequently continues two or three days together.

The fleſh has an agreeable taſte, and is ſaid to be nouriſhing. The ſkin is ſo ſtrong and thick as to turn a muſquet ball. Its horns are uſed for every purpoſe for which hartſhorn is recommended.

REIN

REIN DEER.

THIS is the moſt uſeful and extraordinary animal of all the deer kind. It is a native of the northern icy regions, and ſeems by nature meant to ſerve that part of mankind who live near the pole. It inhabits further north than any other hoofed animal; for it is found in

Bergen and Greenland. But in America it is never ſeen more ſoutherly than Canada. In Europe they are alſo found in Samoidea, Lapland, and Norway: in Aſia, they are ſeen as far as Kamtzchatka, and Siberia. This animal moſtly ſupplies the wants of the Laplanders and Greenlanders. Rein deer ſerve them as horſes, and draw their ſledges over the icy lakes, and ſnowy mountains, with incredible rapidity. As a cow they yield all the commodities of milk, cheeſe, and butter, and as ſheep, they furniſh them with a warm—altho' it be a homely cloathing. The fleſh ſerves them for food, their tendons for bowſtrings, and when ſplit for thread. So that from this quadruped alone, they receive as many advantages as we do from ſeveral. The height of a full grown rein deer is about four feet ſix inches. Nothing can evince more the particular diſpenſation of Providence than the food he provides for the rein deer, when the ſnow-clad face of his country ſeems to threaten him with famine. When not a blade of verdure can be found on heath, valley,

or

or mountain, trees bounteouſly afford a black moſs, which proves an ample ſuſtenance for this moſt patient and ſerviceable animal. Thus are the Laplanders themſelves preſerved by their only food being ſubſiſted.

What a contraſt does theſe northern countries afford, when compared with thoſe of our more clement and fertile climates! The Laplander is obliged to depend on the rein deer for his food, cloathing, and conveyance, while we have almoſt the whole range of nature for our accommodation. Should not this advantage alone, excite in us, ſuch a ſenſe of ſuperior happineſs, as to render us ever grateful to Providence for the diſtinguiſhed bounties we enjoy?

STAG.

THE colour of this animal is generally of a rediſh brown, with ſome black in the face, and a black liſt down the hinder part of the neck, and between the ſhoulders. The Stag is very delicate in his food. During the winter and ſpring a Stag ſeldom drinks. They go about

about eight months with young, which is rarely more than one. Their breeding time is in May, when they carefully conceal their young in the moſt ſecret thickets. This precaution is wiſely dictated from their being expoſed to many formidable enemies, ſuch as the wolf, dog, eagle, falcon, oſprey, and all the animals of the cat kind. But the Stag himſelf is the enemy moſt to be dreaded. The fawn, which is the young of this animal, always accompanies the hind during the whole ſummer. Among all the enemies of this creature, man ſeems to be the greateſt. In every age and country, the human ſpecies have taken delight in the chaſe of the Stag. Thoſe who firſt hunted from neceſſity, have afterwards continued the chaſe for health and amuſement. Indeed, originally, the beaſts of chaſe were the poſſeſſors of this whole iſland. They knew no other conſtraints than the limits of the ocean—nor acknowledged any particular maſter. But when the Saxons eſtabliſhed the Heptarchy, they were reſerved by each ſovereign, for his own particular diverſion.

In theſe uncivilized ages, hunting and war were the only employments of the great; for their active and uncultivated minds, had no pleaſure in rapine or violence. The other ſpecies of this kind are the Fullo, Virginian, Porcine, Roe-buck, Mexican, and Grey Deer.

FEMALE TIBET.

THIS creature is the female of the Muſk, and gives its name to the kingdom of Tibet, a province in China, where it is found between the latitude of 45 and 60 degrees. Theſe animals naturally inhabit the mountains that are covered with pines, delight in ſolitude, and avoid mankind: if purſued, they aſcend the higheſt mountains inacceſſible to men or dogs. It is a very

very timid animal, and has ſuch a quick ſenſe of hearing as to diſcover an enemy at an immenſe diſtance. The celebrated drug that bears the name of this animal is produced from the male only, and is found in a bag, the ſize of a hen's egg, on the belly; it has two ſmall crevices through which the muſk paſſes. This drug when preſſed out of the bag, appears a brown fat matter. But it is greatly adulterated by the hunters and dealers, in order to encreaſe its weight. Theſe animals are ſo numerous as to have afforded TAVERMIER 7673 muſk bags, in one journey that he made for three years. Thoſe found in the kingdom of Tibet are the moſt valuable. Thoſe of Muſcovy are reckoned good. Although the fleſh of the male has a ſtrong taſte of this drug, it is eaten by the Ruſſians and Tartars. Some years ſince muſk was in great eſteem as a perfume, but little regarded as a medicine. It being ſince found of great utility in phyſic; it is now little eſteemed as a perfume.

THIS animal is likewiſe, found in the Brazils, India, and Guinea.

CAMEL.

CAMEL.

THIS is the moſt temperate of all animals. But this diſpoſition ariſes more from the ſcarcity he meets than from choice, or moderation. So admirably is he formed to paſs the parched deſerts, that he will travel eight days without being thirſty. His hard hoofs are particularly

ticularly adapted to travel on the ſands of his native wilds. They are the moſt uſeful beaſts of burden in Arabia, when no other can bear their loads, or endure the want of drink ſo long as all creatures muſt who journey ſuch immenſe tracts as they do of the ſandy deſerts. A large Camel is ſo ſtrong as to carry 12 cwt. To bear the want of water, nature has provided them with a fifth ſtomach, which ſerves them as a reſervoir from whence they draw, at times, ſufficient quantities to quench their thirſt. Camels have been ſometimes killed in hopes of finding water within them that might ſlake the parched thirſt of the traveller. They are chiefly employed in aſſiſting the caravans. And as the deſerts over which they paſs, afford ſcarcely any other vegetation, than the coarſeſt weeds, the Camel is diſpoſed to love theſe better than the choiceſt paſtures. He lives about forty or fifty years. Its height is about ſix feet and a half, and having calloſities on each knee, that greatly eaſes him when he kneels down to reſt under his burden, or to be loaded.

The

The chief difference between a Camel and a Dromedary is, the former has two bunches on his back, while the latter has only one. There are beſides the ARABIAN CAMEL, and the LLAMA CAMEL of America.

GREAT quantities of Camel hair is imported for the uſe of painting.

ANIMALS OF THE HOG KIND.

IN this kind, animals ſeem to unite in thoſe differences which ſeparate others. They reſemble the horſe kind in the long heads, ſingle ſtomachs, and the number of their teeth, being forty-four. Their cloven feet, and poſition of inteſtines, are ſimilar to thoſe of the cow kind. And in their carnivorous appetite, numerous progeny, and chewing their cud, they are like the claw-footed kind.

HOG.

THE Hog blends in his nature the rapacious with the peaceful kind. Though furniſhed with arms ſufficient to terify the braveſt, he is inoffenſive to all.

He is the moſt impure of all quadrupeds. He is inſatiate in appetite and ſluggiſh in temper. Some compare

compare him to a miſer, who, living, is uſeleſs and rapacious, but dead, he is a public benefit. Such is his brutality that he frequently devours his own offſpring. Contrary to all other domeſtic animals, this creature will, impelled by hunger, even devour infants. The Hog is ſaid to be more perfectly formed than any other domeſtic animal. The thickneſs of his hide, and the coarſneſs of his hair render him inſenſible to blows. He is by nature ſtupid, drowſy, and inactive. When undiſturbed, it will ſpend half its time in ſleep, from which ſtate it ſeldom rouſes itſelf but to gratify its appetite, which, if ſufficiently fated with food, would cauſe him to become too large for his legs to ſupport. It would, however, ſtill continue feeding, either kneeling or lying. What a ſymbol is this creature of exceſſive and inordinate ſenſuality.

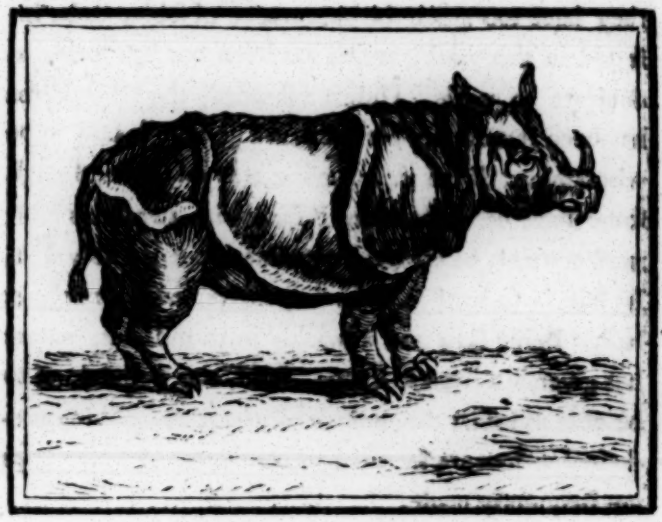
THIS animal is reſtleſs at every change of weather, and is liable to great agitations when the winds are high. He is ſubject to all diſeaſes incident to intemperance. When he is permitted to extend his thread

of

of life, he lives eighteen or twenty years. The Sow goes four months, and will often produce fifteen young at a litter.

The Tajacu, Pecary, or Musk Hog, of south America. It has no tail, has the navel on its back, and when wounded, will call its tribe, which are never satisfied but with the death of their antagonists or themselves.

Of the Hog, there are, the Guinea, Chinese, Ethiopean, Indian, Hog Rabbit, and Hog Cow.



THE RHINOCEROS.

THIS extraordinary creature inhabits Bengal, Siam, Cochin-China, Quangſi, the iſlands of Juva and Sumatra, Congo, Angola, Ethiopia, and the country as low as the Cape. He is next to the elephant in ſize and ſtrength. He has a horn in his forehead that is two feet long. We omit many accounts of this animal as

they have too much the appearance of fable, to be inſerted in this work, which has been our firſt pride to dedicate to truth. Unleſs offended, the Rhinoceros has been found very harmleſs. The fleſh is ſaid to be wholeſome. From their having only one horn, though ſome have been found in Africa with two, this beaſt muſt certainly be the unicorn as mentioned in holy writ. Its ſkin is ſo hard as to be impenetrable to a muſquet ball. Being ſlow and unwieldy in its motions, nature has given it a horn ſo ſtrong, ſolid, and pointed, as to be able to inflict the moſt deadly wounds. Many medicinal virtues are aſcribed to this horn, of which cups are frequently made.

This animal is ſo remarkably formed, that, words not being capable of accurately deſcribing it, we have been particularly careful to have the moſt correct likeneſs that could poſſibly be obtained,

The ſcent of this animal is moſt exquiſite. He runs in a direct line, from his ſight being incapable of perceiving any thing obliquely. Tobacco is their favourite food.

food. The horn has been uſed by princes as cups in order to detect what poiſon might be preſented to them; for when any deadly drug is poured on it, it is aſſerted the horn will immediately break in pieces. Another power attributed to this horn is, that wine, poured into cups made of it, will riſe, boil, and ferment.

This animal was known to the Romans in their moſt early ages. It is among the animals of the Præneſtine pavement. Augustus introduced a Rhinoceros as a part of the ſhew he diſplayed when he made his triumph on obtaining the victory over Cleopatra. See our Mythology, vol. 1. and Roman hiſtory.

HIPPOPOTAME OR SEA HORSE.

THE Hippopotame is as large and as formidable as the Rhinoceros. The length of the male has been found ſeventeen feet, the circumference of the body fifteen feet, the height ſeven feet, the legs three feet, and the head almoſt four. Haſſelquiſt ſays, the hide alone is a load for a camel. Its jaws ex-

tend

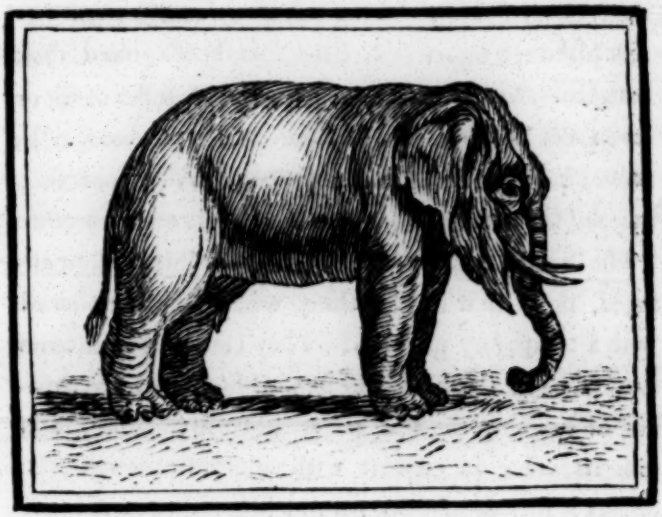
tend about two feet, and it has in each jaw four cutting teeth, which are twelve inches long. The ſea-horſe teeth are of great eſtimation among miniature painters, for painting, on account of their never loſing their primitive whiteneſs; a quality which the tooth of an elephant does not poſſeſs. It has a ſkin ſufficienty thick to reſiſt the edge or force of any ſword or ſabre. Contrary to all other amphibious animals, his feet are not webbed. In figure he is between the ox, and the hog. He is found near lakes and rivers, from the Niger to the Cape of Good-Hope in Africa.

The Hippopotame purſues his prey with great ſwiftneſs and rapidity in the water, under which it will remain thirty or forty minutes. It does great injury to the African plantations. Dampier relates, ſuch is its ſtrength, that he has ſeen one overturn a boat with ſix men in it. Although poſſeſſed of this great power, it is very inoffenſive to all except its natural prey. We, thus, perceive that nature has moſt providentially formed the ſtrongeſt animals the moſt harm-

leſs. It never goes out of the mouth of freſh-water rivers. The female brings forth on land a ſingle offſpring. Many of theſe animals have been tamed after they have been taken in pitfalls. Their fleſh is as delicate as veal, and is therefore often ſold as other meat in the public ſhambles.

THIS animal is the Behemeth of JOB. The Romans knew it. AUGUSTUS introduced an Hippopotame among the other foreign animals that graced his triumph over CLEOPATRA.

IT was worſhipped by the Egyptians, at their city of Papremis.



ELEPHANT.

THE Elephant is reckoned the largeſt of all land animals, and, next to man, is the moſt ſagacious. Its height is from ſeven to fifteen feet. And although ſo large and unwieldy it will ſwim. It has a long trunk formed of many rings, which anſwers the purpoſe of hands to feed itſelf. The eyes are extremely ſmall,

the legs very ſhort, and the tail like that of a hog. The feet although undivided, have five hoofs round their margins. In the upper jaw are two vaſt tuſks of ſix or ſeven feet long, from which we obtain our ivory. In droves nothing is more formidable. Wherever they march, the foreſt falls before them. It would require a whole army to repel them, when thus united, or enraged, or in their rutting time, when they are ſeized with a temporary madneſs. They cannot live far from water. The elephant is ſo fond of muſic as to be capable of learning to beat time, move in meaſure, and join its voice in concert with the inſtruments. In Africa it ſtill retains its natural liberty. No animal, when tamed, is more courteous, obedient, and affectionate. It kneels to receive its rider. It will draw chariots and ſhipping, and frequently carries cannon, and ſmall towers with ſoldiers in them to battle, with great ſtrength, courage, and perſeverance. They will ſleep ſtanding. Many have lived to 120 and 130 years. The Africans, who take them in pit-falls, very often

eat

eat their flesh. A slight wound behind the ear is fatal to them.

The following is a remarkable instance of its sense and love of glory. An elephant, being directed to force a large vessel into the water, was found too weak. The master sarcastically desired the keeper to take away the lazy beast and bring another. The poor animal was so affected at the reflection, that he instantly repeated its efforts, fractured its skull and expired.

Let not man boast his attachment to glory, when he is thus equalled in the most eminent examples by the brute creation.

ANIMALS OF THE MONKEY KIND.

THE Ape or Monkey claſs are diſtinguiſhed from all others by their ſimilitude to man. They have hands inſtead of paws; and their ears, eye-lids, lips, and breaſts greatly reſemble thoſe of the human race: their internal ſtructure bears the like conformation to mankind. Thoſe, therefore, who make their perſons the principal object of their attention, need only conſider their affinity to the brute creation, to induce them to cultivate thoſe mental qualities which can alone diſtinguiſh them from the inferior claſſes of being in the creation!*

THE

* In the well-known ſtory of PETER the wild boy, we ſee of what importance the cultivation of our infant faculties are. This boy was found by king George I. in the woods of Germany, and brought to England in the year 1700, at about ten or twelve years of age, as was then ſuppoſed; when his agility in climbing

THE Monkey tribe are lively, active, and full of frolic, chatter, and grimace. Indeed their actions, as well as their form, ſeem deſigned by nature to burleſque the ignorant part of our ſpecies. In general, they are fierce and untameable. They are dirty, and diſhoneſt. Their greateſt pleaſure is to be perpetually ſtealing,

the trees is reported to have been ſurpriſing. He muſt, in this caſe have been loſt, or left in the woods in his early childhood, perhaps ſoon after he was able to walk; his infant impreſſions in ſociety being thus loſt, his ſubſequent ones adapted to his ſavage ſituation, and not having had an opportunity of learning and practiſing ſpeech, he continued to the day of his death a meer OURANG OUTANG. The people with whom he boarded in England, could make him break or cleave wood, draw water, or threſh in a barn, but his rude narrow mind could never be enlarged, owing principally to his never conquering the habit of ſpeech. This inſtance ſhews what a man as an individual would be, and what he owes to the experience of former ages, carefully inſtilled into him by proper EDUCATION as his faculties open.

ſtealing, and hiding their theſts. Woods and trees are their chief habitations, where they feed on fruits, leaves, and inſects. Such is their activity, that they will leap from tree to tree, even when loaded with young. Being a ſociable animal, they go in great companies or tribes; for the different ſpecies never mix with each other. Serpents, will purſue them to the tops of trees, where they freq ently, devour them whole.

As theſe creatures differ too greatly from each other according to their ſpecies, for a general deſcription to afford an adequate idea of their nature, we ſhall particularly notice the Baboon, Ape, and Ourang Outang.

OURANG OUTANG, or WILD MAN of the Woods.

THIS name is given to various animals that walk upright, but that have different proportions and come from different countries. The Ourang Outang greatly reſembles in countenance a toothleſs old woman, and approaches nearer to the human race than any other animal whatever. The whole creature correſponds ſo nearly

nearly in form to man, that many have expected to find the ſame correſpondence. But the contrary being found, diſproves that ſceptical aſſertion, that matter forms the nature of the mind. It proves, likewiſe, that the moſt curiouſly conſtructed bodies are formed in vain, unleſs a correſponding ſoul is infuſed to direct and controul its operations.

Dr. TYSON deſcribes as follows an Ourang Outang, brought from Angola in Africa.

The body was covered with black hair which greatly reſembles human hair, and it was longeſt in the ſame parts as in the human ſpecies. The face was like the human face except the forehead being larger and the head rounder. The jaws were not ſo prominent as in monkies, but flat like thoſe of a man. The ears, teeth, and in a word, the whole of this creature, at firſt view, preſented a human figure. And as he ſo nearly approached man in his figure, his diſpoſition was exceeding fond, more gentle, and harmleſs, than the monkey race are found in general. Thoſe who were familiar with

with him in the ſhip, he would moſt tenderly embrace, open their boſoms, and claſp his hands about them. And although there were other monkies on board, he never aſſociated with them, as if he conſidered them as, indeed they are, claſſes of being much inferior to him in the ſcale of creation. Being accuſtomed to cloaths, he grew ſo fond of them as to endeavour to dreſs and undreſs himſelf. Such parts as he could not put on, he took to ſome of the company on board to have their aſſiſtance. Like any other human creature, it would go to bed, place his head on the pillow, and cover himſelf with the cloaths.

One of theſe animals was ſhewn in London, 1738, that would reach himſelf a chair, drink tea, which, if too hot, he would cool in the ſaucer, cry like a child, and be exceedingly unhappy in the abſence of his keeper.

The Ourang Outang inhabits the interior parts of Africa, the iſland of Sumatra, Borneo, and Java.

This animal is ſolitary in nature, and ſubſiſts chiefly on fruit and nuts. The larger Ourang Outangs are ſo

ſtrong,

ſtrong, as to be capable of overpowering the ſtrongeſt man. And as nature has placed them among the fierceſt animals, they are provided with ſufficient courage, cunning, and dexterity, to drive away even elephants from them. They beat them with their fiſts and pieces of wood, and will throw ſtones at thoſe who offend them. They ſometimes carry away young negroes, eſpecially females, whom they have been known to treat with the greateſt tenderneſs. Le Broſſe aſſerts, that he knew a woman of Loango, who had lived three years among them.

PIGMY APE.

THIS animal has a flat face, and ears like thoſe of a man. It is as large as a cat, and has olive brown hair. Ants, other inſects, and fruits are its chief ſubſiſtence. To find ants, they aſſemble in troops and turn over every ſtone in ſearch of them. Africa is the country where they are moſtly found. In animal exhibitions,

the Pigmy Ape is not uncommon. Their diſpoſition is very gentle and tractable. The hair on their head ſeems to come over the forehead like the cowl of a monk. Its hands are remarkable ſimilar to thoſe of human nature. Of all ſpecies of the Ape, this animal ſeems to be the moſt harmleſs, and is, therefore, more ſought by thoſe who are fond of making ſuch creatures objects of their attention and amuſement.

THERE are the MAGGOT, or BARBARY APE.

LONG-ARMED APE, called by Mr. BUFFON, the Gibbon, is a very extraordinary creature. It walks erect, has no tail, and has ſuch long arms that when he ſtands upright, he can touch the ground with his hands.

TUFTED APE, has a head ſo long that it meaſures fourteen inches. It has a long upright tuft of hair on the top of the head, and another under the chin.

SIMIA PORCARIA, of which there is a drawing in the Muſeum.

BABOON.

BABOON.

THIS animal is about three feet and a half high, has a thick body, ſtrong limbs and long canine teeth. The tail is thick, crooked, and ſeven inches long. It has a pouch in each cheek, where it depoſits its proviſions. This ſhews they are adapted to live in countries where they are liable to meet with a temporary

ſcarcity; for nature never beſtows any particularity on a being, but in conformity with the neceſſity of forming it perfectly capable of living wherever it is placed. Thus ariſes the great difference in animated nature, from the variety of clime where they reſide, and not, as ſome have falſely and unphiloſophically imagined, to diſtinguiſh every part of the creation, from each other.

The Baboon ſometimes walks erect. Inſtead of nails, the hands and feet are armed with claws, in order to adapt it for climbing, and render it formidable againſt thoſe natural enemies it finds where it is obliged to ſeek its ſubſiſtence. Forbin relates, that in Siam, when the men are at harveſt work, whole troops of Baboons will attack a village where the women are obliged to defend themſelves with clubs, and other arms, from their brutal inſults. Whatever they undertake, they execute with ſurpriſing ſkill and regularity. When they attack an orchard, they do it with all the ſkill and precaution of an army in a ſiege. They have their ſentinels, and their lines moſt orderly formed.

The

The female produces one, which ſhe carries in her arms.

Baboons are not carnivorous. They feed upon fruits, corn, and roots. Their internal parts more reſemble thoſe of the quadrupeds than mankind.

The Mandril, mentioned by Smith, is a native of the gold coaſt. It grows to four and five feet in height, and more frequently walks erect than on all fours. When diſpleaſed, it is ſaid to weep like a child.

Wanderer, is a ſmall Baboon, that is remarkable for having a long white head of hair, and a large beard of the ſame colour.

Little Baboon, and the Pigtail Baboon are all that remain beſide of this ſpecies.

Of Monkies there are an innumerable quantity. We have only room, therefore, to name them as follows: Dog-faced, Lion-tailed, Hare-lipped, Spelted, Green, White-eyelid, Negroe, Chineſe, Varied, Dove, Tawny, Winking, Goat, Four-fingered, Weeping, Orange, Horned, Antiqua, Fox-tailed, Great-eared, Silky, and Little-lion Monkey.

ANIMALS of the DOG Kind.

The Dog, next to the Elephant, is the moſt intelligent, and friendly to man of all the quadrupeds. It ſeems beyond the power of ill-uſage to alienate its affections from human nature. His beauty, ſwiftneſs, vivacity, courage, fidelity, docility, and watchfulneſs, render him moſt endearing to man: when in his domeſtic ſtate, his firſt ambition and ſatisfaction is to pleaſe. He is more humble through affection than ſervility. He waits his orders, and moſt implicitly obeys them. Friendly without intereſt, and grateful for the ſlighteſt favours, he ſooner forgets injuries than benefits. His only aim is always to ſerve, and never diſpleaſe.

Multitudes of Dogs are found wild, or rather without maſters, in Cougs, Lower Ethiopia, and towards the Cape of Good Hope. They go in great packs

packs and attack lions, tigers, and elephants, by all of which they are frequently killed. Although there are wild Dogs now in ſouth America, yet this animal was unknown to the New-Continent, before it was carried there from Europe. This ſhews that the brute creation, like the human ſpecies, may degenerate from a ſtate of refined ſociety to that of a ſavage nature. Dogs, in their wild ſtate, breed in holes, like rabbits holes, and when they are taken young, they ſo attach themſelves to mankind, as never to deſert their maſters, or return again to their ſavage companions.

The names of the different ſpecies of this animal in its domeſtic ſtate, are the Shepherd's Dog, Hound, Spaniel, Grey-hound, Daniſh Dog, Maſtiff Bull Dog, Pug Dog, Iriſh Grey-hound, Terrier, Blood-hound, Leymme, Tumbler, Lap-dog, Small Daniſh Dog, Harlequin Dog, Cue Dog, Shark Dog, Turkiſh Dog, and Lion Dog.

MASTIFF.

AMONG theſe uſeful and eſtimable animals, we have choſen the Maſtiff as the moſt worthy our particular notice, from its being the largeſt, and of moſt eſſential ſervice to man.

THE Maſtiff poſſeſſes great ſize and ſtrength. He has a large head, hanging lips, and a noble countenance.

nance. This creature is ſo formidable, that CAIUS ſays, three of them were reckoned with the Romans, a match for a bear, and four for a lion. Great Britain was ſo famous for its Maſtiffs, that the Roman emperors appointed an officer in this iſland to attend their breed, and to ſend them, at a proper age, to Rome, for the combats in the Amphitheatre. The Maſtiff is uſually kept in England, for guarding yards, houſes, and other places.

To try the ſtrength of this creature, JAMES I. cauſed three of them to be looſed on a lion, which was vanquiſhed by their ſtrength and courage. Two of the Dogs were, indeed, diſabled in the combat, but the third obliged the lion to ſeek his ſafety by flight. From the ſize, ſtrength, and courage of this noble creature, it may be preſumed, nature eſpecially formed him for the guardianſhip of mankind. And as he is the particular growth of this country, we ought to hold ourſelves greatly indebted to Providence, for ſo partial and ineſtimable a bounty beſtowed for our accommodation.

GREYHOUND.

The GREYHOUND

Is the ſwifteſt of all Dogs, and purſues a hare by the ſight, and not by ſmell. Nature having denied it an acute ſcent, has recompenſed this animal with an extraordinary ſpeed. Such is his ſtaunchneſs for hunting, that while it keeps the hare in view, it will continue running

running until it expires, or takes the prey. Its head and legs are long, and the body is ſo exceeding ſlender, that nothing can be more adapted for fleetneſs. Formerly, the Grey-hound was eſteemed amongſt the firſt rank of dogs. This appears by the foreſt laws of CANUTE; he enacted that no perſon under the degree of a gentleman, ſhould preſume to keep a Grey-hound.

THE various kinds of this animal, are, the Spaniſh Grey-hound, which is ſleek and ſmall, and the Oriental Grey-hound, which is tall and ſlender; with very pendulous ears, and long hair on the tail.

POINTER.

THIS dog is moſt excellent in Spain. It is about the ſize of a bull-dog, and ſpotted like a ſpaniel. In diſpoſition it is docile, and capable of being trained for the greateſt aſſiſtance to the ſportſman, who delights in ſhooting. It is aſtoniſhing to ſee to what a degree

degree of obedience theſe animals are to be brought. Their ſight is equally acute with their ſcent; from this quickneſs of ſight, they are enabled to perceive at a diſtance, the ſmalleſt ſign from their maſter. When they ſcent their game, they fix themſelves like ſtatues, in the very attitude in which they happen to be at the moment. If one of their fore feet is not on the ground when they firſt ſcent, it remains ſuſpended, leſt by putting on the ground, the ſcented game might be too ſoon alarmed with the noiſe. In this poſition they remain until the ſportſman comes near enough, and is prepared to take his ſhot. He gives the word, and immediately ſpring the game. The attitude in which a Pointer ſtands, has been often choſen as a picture for the artiſt to delineate.

The other animals of the Dog kind, are, the Wolf, Fox, Jackall, Iſatis, and Hyæna.

Of theſe, we ſelect the latter, as the moſt ſingular and remarkable animal to deſcribe.

HYÆNA.

HYÆNA.

THE Hyæna is nearly as large as a wolf, which it reſembles in the head and body. It is more ſavage and untameable than every other quadruped, and is continually in a ſtate of rage and rapacity; unleſs when it feeds it is always growling. Its gliſtering eyes, erect briſtles

briſtles on the back, and teeth always appearing, render his aſpect truly terrific. Its horrible howl is ſaid to reſemble a human voice in diſtreſs.

The Hyæna for its ſize, is the moſt terrible and ferocious of all other quadrupeds. It defends itſelf againſt the lion, is a match for the panther, and frequently overcomes the ounce. This obſcure and ſolitary animal chiefly inhabits Aſiatic Turkey, Syria, Perſia, and Barbary. Caverns of mountains, clifts of rocks, and ſubterraneous dens are chiefly its lurking places of ſolitude. The manſions of the dead are ſubject to his violations; for, like the Jackall, the putrid contents are to him, the moſt dainty food. It preys upon flocks and herds. When theſe, and other animal prey fails, he will eat the roots of plants, and the tender roots of palm trees.

The ſuperſtitious Arabs, when they kill an Hyæna, always buries its head, leſt it ſhould be applied to magical purpoſes, as the neck was formerly by the Theſſalian ſorcereſs. The unenlightened Arab muſt be excuſed

excuſed for this weak opinion, when it is conſidered, that the moſt refined and learned antients, thought the Hyæna had the power of charming the ſhepherds, and, as it were, rivetting them to the place where they ſtood.

The voice of this animal is a hoarſe, diſagreeable combination of growling, crying, and roaring.

The fabulous relation of Pliny, reſpecting this creature, is almoſt too abſurd to mention. We, however, relate it juſt to ſhew how much he debaſed the hiſtory of nature with his fanciful impoſitions. He ſays, that Hyænas have been known, not only to imitate the human voice—but to call ſome perſon by his name, who, coming out, was immediately devoured by the ſubtle cruelty of this creature.

In Guinea, Ethiopia, and the Cape, there is another ſpecies of Hyæna, which is called by Pennant, the ſpotted Hyæna.

ANIMALS OF THE CAT KIND.

THIS claſs is particularly diſtinguiſhed by their ſharp claws, which they can extend and conceal at pleaſure. They lead a ſolitary ravenous life; for moſt of them not only ſeek their food alone, but, excepting at certain ſeaſons, are enemies to each other. The dog, wolf, and bear will ſometimes live on vegetables. But the lion, tiger, leopard, and all of the cat-kind feed only upon fleſh.

THESE animals are in general fierce, cruel, ſubtle, and rapacious. It is probable, however, that the moſt ferocious may be rendered domeſtic. Lions have drawn the chariots of conquerors, and tigers have tended thoſe herds which they now deſtroy. Though differing in ſize and colour, all animals of the cat kind are allied to each other in artifice, ferocity, and rapacity. To ſee one is to know them all. Human aſſiduity can ef-

fect many changes in other creatures, but in this kind all effects to alter their immutable nature prove abortive. The dog, cow, and ſheep, vary according to their country. But the lion and tiger are the ſame in whatever ſoil they are found. Animals of the cat kind are remarkable for their round heads, ſhort noſes, and long whiſkers on the upper lip.

THE LION.

WHAT diſtinguiſhes this animal's appearance from others, is chiefly his head, neck, chin, and ſhoulders being covered with long ſhaggy hair like a mane. It has very ſtrong limbs, and a long tail with a tuft of hair at the end. The colour is tawny, except on the belly, where it inclines to white. The length of the

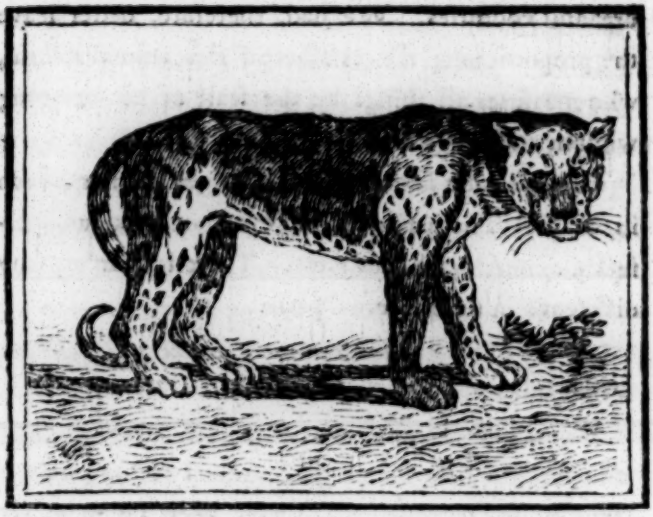
largeſt Lion from the noſe to the tail, is about eight feet. The lioneſs is leſs and has no mane.

Climate little affects this noble animal. He ſubſiſts as well under the frigid poles, as beneath the torrid zone, while moſt other animals are adapted to live in particular latitudes.

The Lion abounds chiefly in the torrid zone, where they are the largeſt and moſt tremenduous. The burning ſun and arid ſoil ſeem to inflame their nature to the greateſt height of ſavage ferocity. The Lions in the colder regions, ſuch as mount Atlas, are much inferior in ſtrength and ſpirit. The torrid zone, affording few rivers or fountains, cauſes the Lion to live in a perpetual fever which excites in him a ſort of madneſs that is fatal to every animal he meets. It is, therefore, happy this ferocious creature, as travellers in general relate, are daily declining in the number of the ſpecies. But, perhaps, were they to be entirely extirpated, other animals on which they prey, might be too numerous for the ſafety and welfare of the inhabitants of thoſe dreadful

dreadful countries. We had, therefore, better leave the proportioning the number of this animal to him, who meaſures all things by the ſcale of his unerring wiſdom and providence.

The eyes of a Lion are always bright and fiery, even in death. The paws, teeth, eyes, and tongue, perfectly reſemble thoſe of a cat. There is ſcarcely any difference in their internal parts.



PANTHER.

THIS beaſt has been frequently miſtaken by naturaliſts for the Tyger. This error has ariſen from its being nearly of the ſame ſize, and poſſeſſing the ſame diſpoſition to cruelty, and a general enmity to the animal creation. Its chief difference is in being ſpotted, and not ſtreaked as the Tiger.

THE Panther is found in Barbary, and all the intermediate

mediate countries in Africa that lie between that and Guinea. It is peculiar to Africa, as the Tiger is to Aſia. Although hunger impels it to attack every thing that has life, without diſtinction, yet it differs from the Tiger in preferring, at other times, the fleſh of animals to that of mankind. Like the Tiger, it ſeizes its prey by ſurpriſe, and will climb trees in purſuit of monkies, and other creatures that ſeek among the branches an aſylum. This ſpecies always retain their fierce, malevolent aſpect, and never ceaſe to growl or murmur.

THIS animal was well known to the ancients. From the number the Romans continued to introduce in their public ſhews, it might have been ſuppoſed they would have extirpated the race of this ſavage and untameable animal. SCARUS exhibited 150 Panthers in one ſhow; POMPEY the Great, 410; and AUGUSTUS 420. But although they certainly, thus, thinned the coaſts of Mauritania of theſe animals, yet they are now ſwarming in the ſouthern parts of Guinea.

AMONG the remaining animals of the cat kind, we ſhall ſelect the white Bear and Opoſſum.

WHITE OR POLAR BEAR.

THIS creature grows to a great ſize, and is the undiſputed maſter of Greenland and Spitzbergen. When our mariners land in thoſe ice regions, theſe animals come down and view them, uncertain to attack or retreat. When ſhot at or wounded, they endeavour to fly; but, if incapable, their reſiſtance never ends but with

with their death. They live upon ſeals, carcaſſes of whales, and ſuch human bodies as they can find or make their prey. Companies of them are ſo daring as to attack crews of armed men, and will even board ſmall veſſels. From this diſpoſition to reſiſt all invaſion, they ſeem by nature formed to convince man, this inhoſpitable clime was only meant for their poſſeſſion, and that it was never deſigned by providence to be the abode of the human ſpecies. Theſe bears ſwim well, and dive with great agility. Battles frequently enſue between them and the whales, in which the latter generally are victorious, from being attacked in their own element. If they, however, can capture a young whale, they are ſufficiently repaid for the danger of meeting the parent.

The affection between the white bear and their young is ſo great, that they prefer death to parting. The coldeſt part of the globe is allotted by nature for the abode of this creature. They are not found farther ſouth than Newfoundland, unleſs they have been carried

ried involuntarily by floating islands of ice, on which they had too rashly ventured in search of their prey.

The flesh of this animal is white, and has the taste of mutton. Its fat is melted for train oil, and that extracted from the feet is used medically. The lion is so unwholesome as to have endangered the lives of three sailors who eat some.

Dr. Goldsmith relates, that when a Greenlander and his wife are paddling out at sea, a white Bear will frequently jump into his boat, seat himself, and be rowed a shore like any other passenger.

OPOSSUM.

WHAT diſtinguiſhes the Opoſſum from all other animals and has long excited the wonder of mankind, is a large pouch in the lower part of the female in which the teats are lodged, and where the young are ſheltered as ſoon as they are brought forth. At this time they are blind, naked, ſmall, and imperfect. Therefore nature

ture has providentially provided them with this maternal aſylum, until they can perfect their being. But when they are grown ſtronger, here they ſeek ſhelter as chickens under the wing of the hen. Here they repoſe from fatigue, or ſeek their food when hungry. The dam on ſuch occaſions moſt readily opens her bag to receive them. The fleſh of the old Opoſſum is like that of a ſucking pig; the Indian women dye its hair and weave it into girdles. The ſkin has a very offenſive ſmell. The head reſembles that of a fox, and has fifty teeth. The eyes are black, lively, and placed upright. The ears are large, broad, naked, and tranſparent. Its tail is part covered with ſcales, and part with hair, which we may ſuppoſe is that part of the young that cannot be concealed in the pouch, and, therefore, it is provided with this natural armour. The feet reſembles hands, by having five toes or fingers with white crooked nails.

The tail of this animal greatly reſembles a ſnake. By it, the Opoſſum ſuſpends itſelf on one tree, and by

ſwinging

ſwinging in this poſition, throws itſelf on the branches of another. It deſtroys poultry, and ſucks the blood without devouring the fleſh. It walks extremely ſlow, and when overtaken it will feign itſelf dead.

THIS animal is a native of Virginia, Louſiana, Mexico, Brazil, and Peru.

THE other leſs intereſting animals of the cat kind, are the domeſtic cat, wild cat, ounce, tiger cat, lynx, cougar, ſiaguſh, Angora cat, ſerval, black bear, brown bear, white or polar bear, wolverine or glutton, racoon, badger, marmoſe, cayopolin, chalanga, and tarſier.

ANIMALS OF THE WEAZEL KIND.

THE Weazel kind may be diſtinguiſhed from other carnivorous animals, by their long and ſlender bodies, enabling them to creep into very ſmall apertures after their prey. They are called vermid, from reſembling the worm in this particular. In the form and diſpoſition of the claws, they differ from the reſt of the cat kind; for they can neither extend or contract them. They vary from the dog kind in being cloathed rather with fur than hair. They differ as much in their diſpoſition, as in their appearance. They are cruel, cowardly, and voracious; they ſubſiſt moſtly by theft, and deſtroy all about them, before they begin to feed; they ſuck the blood of every animal before they regale on the fleſh.

AMONG the various individuals of this ſpecies, we ſhall ſelect as the moſt remarkable, the civit, beaver, porcupine, ſloth, and aramdillo.

CIVET.

THE CIVET.

LIKE the reſt of the weazel kind, has a long ſlender body, ſhort legs, and an odorous matter exuding from the glands behind. It is, however, much larger than weaſels in general; its length being, from noſe to tail, about two feet three inches, the tail fourteen inches, and the body rather thick. It has a long noſe like-

like that of a fox. It is moſtly aſh colour, ſpotted with black. It has whiſkers and eyes that are black and beautiful.

This animal is a native of India, the Philippine iſles, Guinea, Ethiopia, and Madagaſcar. The famous drug muſk, is produced from them.

Thoſe who keep them provide a box for their habitation, and procure the muſk by ſcraping this box about three times a week. The male, if it be previouſly irritated, will yield the moſt. When young they are fed with pap, made of millet, and a little fiſh or fleſh. When old they are moſtly fed with raw fleſh. In a wild ſtate they prey on fowls.

BEAVER.

BEAVER.

THE Beaver is the only quadruped that has a flat broad tail, covered with ſcales, which ſerves it as a rudder in the water, and a cart to carry materials for its building on land. The hind feet are webbed, but the fore feet are not, from the neceſſity of uſing them as

¶ H hands.

hands. The fore part in general reſembles a quadruped, and the hind part a fiſh. It has teeth formed as a ſaw, with which they cut the pieces of wood they uſe in building their huts, and damming the water out of them. The fur is of a deep cheſnut brown, and is the moſt valuable material uſed in the hat manufactory. The length of a Beaver, from noſe to tail, is about three feet; the tail is eleven inches long, and three broad.

In June and July they form their ſocieties of two and three hundred, which they continue all the reſt of the year. Where they meet, they fix their abode, which is always by the ſide of a lake, or river. The ſagacity of this animal is truly worthy the conſideration of the naturaliſt and philoſopher. It is impoſſible to conſider it without human pride being greatly humiliated. When we ſee a Beaver with only his feet, teeth, and tail capable of building a hut as commodious for itſelf and its young, as a cottage can be rendered to a peaſant even with the aid of reaſon and mechanical tools, of what ſuperiority has man to boaſt?

In

If they fix their ſtation by a river that is ſubject to floods, they build or dam a pier that croſſes the ſtream ſo as to form a piece of dead water. But if they ſettle near a lake which is not liable to inundation, they ſave themſelves this trouble. To form the dam, or pier, they drive ſtakes of about five or ſix feet long, wattling each row with twigs, and filling the interſtices with clay. The ſide next the water is ſloped, and the other perpendicular. The bottom is from ten to twelve feet thick, gradually diminiſhing to the top, which is but two or three feet at moſt. This dam is generally about eighty or a hundred feet in length. The greatneſs of the work compared with the ſmallneſs of the architect, however aſtoniſhing, is not more wonderful than its firmneſs and ſolidity.

The houſes are erected near the ſhore, in the water collected by the dams. They are either round or oval, and are built on piles. The tops being vaulted, the inſide reſembles an oven, and the outſide a dome. The walls, which are two feet thick, are made of earth,

ſtones, and ſticks, and are plaiſtered with all the ſkill and excellence of the moſt expert maſon. There are two openings in each houſe, one into the water, and the other towards the land. Their height is about eight feet. From two to thirty Beavers inhabit each dwelling, and in each pond there are from ten to twenty-five houſes. Each Beaver has a bed of moſs. They are ſuch perfect epicures, that they daily regale themſelves on the choiceſt plants and fruits which the country affords.

PORCUPINE.

THIS animal is about two feet long, and fifteen inches high. The body is covered with quills, from ten to fourteen inches long, and very ſharp at the points. They grow in the animal as feathers in birds. The head, belly, and legs are covered with ſtrong

bristles. The whiskers are long, and the ears like those of a man. When the animal is irritated, the quills stand erect. The eyes are so small as only to be about a quarter of an inch wide.

Like the hedge-hog, these quills are rather for self-defence than attacking an enemy. The opinion of its darting its quills is found to be fabulous. They are only shed when the animal moults. This creature seems allied to the bird creation, by being covered with quills—although not designed for flight, having no wings or feathers. These quills being found a sufficient defence against the most formidable animals, shew how powerful the weakest materials may be rendered when under the skill and workmanship of Infinite Wisdom. A wolf has been found dead with some Porcupine quills in his mouth, where they must have stuck when he rashly attempted to devour the Porcupine.

The Italian Porcupines have a smaller crest, and shorter quills than those of Asia and Africa.

SLOTH.

SLOTH.

THERE are two kinds of this animal. One has two claws on each foot, and no tail; the other has three on each, and a tail. Both these are described under the common appellation of the Sloth. It is about the size of a badger, and has a coarse fur

reſembling dried graſs. The tail is exceedingly ſhort, and the mouth extends from ear to ear. The feet of this animal are ſo obliquely placed, that the ſoles ſcarcely ever touch the ground. So awkwardly is the conſtruction of its limbs, that it moves only three yards in an hour. Thus, unleſs impelled by the ſevereſt hunger, he ſeldom is induced to change his place.

THE Sloth inhabits many parts of the eaſtern ſide of South America. It is the meaneſt, and moſt ill formed of animals. Leaves and fruits of trees are its chief food. It is a ruminating animal, and is provided by nature for this purpoſe with four ſtomachs.

ALTHOUGH it aſcends a tree with the greateſt difficulty, it cannot deſcend from it without forming itſelf into a ball, and dropping from the branches to the ground, where the ſhock cauſes it to remain ſome time inactive. To travel from tree to tree, that are one hundred yards diſtant, is, for the Sloth, a week's journey.

ARMADILLO.

ARMADILLO.

NATURE ſeems to have reſerved all the wonders of her power, for thoſe remote countries, where men are the moſt ſavage, and quadrupeds the moſt various. She ſeems to become more wonderful in proportion, as ſhe retires from human inſpection. But in reality, this

this only arises from mankind ridding the country of such strange productions when they become more civilized.

The Armadillo is covered with a number of shells. At first view, it seems a round mishapen mass, with a long head, and a short tail. Its size is from one to three feet in length. These shells which perfectly resembles a bony substance, cover the head, neck, sides, rump, and tail. By this natural defensive covering being jointed, the creature has a power of moving itself beneath its armour.

These shells might be sufficient to defend the Armadillo from a feeble, but not a powerful antagonist. Nature has, therefore, furnished the Armadillo with a method of withdrawing the whole body under covert of his armour. Thus, like the hedge-hog and porcupine, they are defended from danger without flight, or resistance, and becomes invulnerable while they are threatened with danger.

HARE.

HARE.

THIS weak and defenceleſs creature, is the moſt perſecuted of animals. But to countenance its danger, it is remarkably timid and cautious, which makes it perpetually attentive to every alarm. That it may be apprized of diſtant danger, ſo as to effect a timely eſcape, nature has provided it with ſuch long ears as convey ſounds almoſt like ſpeaking-trumpets. And to enable it ſtill more to perceive its danger, the eyes are ſo prominent as to be capable of diſcerning objects almoſt behind them. It is ſo watchful as to ſleep with the eyes open. And as it depends on flight for its ſafety, the muſcles are ſtrong, and without fat; ſo that the animal has no ſuperfluous burthen to impede its fleetneſs, which ſtill to increaſe, nature has provided it with long legs.

NATURAL

NATURAL HISTORY.

BIRDS.

THEIR GENERAL NATURE.

DESIGN. PROVIDENCE designed birds to inhabit the regions of the air, which would otherwise have loſt a great part of its utility.

FORM. Their body is ſharp before to facilitate its paſſage through their native element. It ſwells gradually until it is aided by the full expanſion of its tail, which ſerves, with the aid of the wings, not only to buoy it, but to direct, as a rudder, the flight of the bird.

PLUMAGE.

PLUMAGE. They are covered with feathers, which are moſt admirably adapted for the air they chiefly inhabit. Theſe feathers being compoſed of a quill that contains a conſiderable quantity of air, and a ſhaft which is edged on each ſide with the moſt volatile ſubſtance, render the body conſiderably lighter than the air, when the wings are expanded. Thus is the bird enabled to command an expanſive element as a territory, which is denied to every other part of the creation.

SIGHT. To adapt their ſight to their ſwift motion, through the aerial regions, their eyes are not ſo convex or prominent as thoſe of creatures confined to the earth. This prevents their being injured by the repulſive force of the air, which they muſt experience in their rapid flights; and likewiſe renders them, not ſo liable to be touched with the points of thorns, ſprays, leaves, &c. in their progreſs among the trees, buſhes, and hedges. The film, or nictating membrane, with which they occaſionally cover their eyes without cloſing

ing the lids, is deſigned to clear and protect them from the glare of ſummer ſun-beams, and from the miſt, fogs and clouds, with which the air at ſome times abound, when they are forced to range it for food, or neſting. The power they have of particularly extending the optic nerve, gives their ſight ſuch an acuteneſs, that it perceives objects more clearly, and at a greater diſtance than any other part of the creation.

HEARING. They have the power of diſtinguiſhing ſounds, without any external ear, which would have impeded their flight, and been liable to many injuries in their darting through buſhes, briers, &c.

SMELLING. Their ſcent is very acute and extenſive. By this they are apprized of the approach of their natural and artificial enemies. Thoſe who decoy ducks are obliged to keep a piece of burning turf in their mouths, to prevent their being ſcented by the prey they are endeavouring to ſurprize.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE. Their bones are formed ſufficiently ſtrong to ſupport the ſyſtem of their body,

and its functions, and ſo light as ſcarcely to be any additional weight to their fleſh. All their internal ſtructure is calculated to increaſe the ſurface beyond the proportion of the ſolidity of their bodies, in order to render them lighter than the ſame portion of air. Their lungs and the ends of their wind-pipe branches imbibe air into a number of bladder receptacles. The crop, which is a repoſitory for ſuperfluous food, was given as a ſupply in their long flights, and other times of indiſpenſable neceſſity. The food of birds being in general dry, hard, and crude, they have a gizzard, which, with the help of ſand and ſtony particles they ſwallow, aid them in the digeſtion.

Molting. Although birds from the ſimplicity of their ſtructure, habitation of air, and perpetual exerciſe, are ſubject to leſs diſeaſe than other creatures, yet they are liable to one to which no others are expoſed. This is the ſickneſs attending their annual renovation of plumage. It is called their moulting time.

GENERATION. When nature affords abundance of food and clemency of ſeaſon, birds are ſtimulated to pair, in order to increaſe their ſpecies. Having choſen their mate for the enſuing year, they proceed to all thoſe official cares that diſtinguiſh the approach of being made parents. With all the fondneſs of ſuch expectancies, they proceed to collect materials for their neſts. Theſe being completed according to the nature of the bird, with the ſkill of the moſt expert and ingenious architect, the female lays a certain number of eggs, on which ſhe ſits or broods, until the heat of her animates and brings forth perfect young from every one that is not addled, or injured in the courſe of the laying and hatching. The young are no ſooner brought into life, than a new weight of cares aſſail the tender parents. The female no longer is pleaſed with the ſweet notes of her mate. She courts his abſence in order to obtain food for her and her neſtlings. And as each might be exhauſted with the perpetual ſearch for ſupply, they relieve each other in this indiſpenſable duty. Sometimes, indeed, a ſcarcity will cauſe them

both to leave the young to obtain for them a ſubſiſtence. When the new brood are fed each has its portion, but not more than once at a time. Thus are the parents employed until the offspring is capable of being uſhered as tenants of the ærial region into the poſſeſſion of their native element.

HABITATION. Birds are particularly attached to the place of their nativity. A rook, if undiſturbed, will never deſert his native grove. The blackbird and red-breaſt are tenacious of their birth-right, and many of the feathered tribe that emigrate annually from this country, have, by frequent experiments, been known to return to their uſual breeding place. The blackbird is attached to his wild-thorn, and the latter to his familiar cottage, which he confidently enters in winter, and fondly neſts near in ſummer. Though apparently mild, yet he will drive all intruders from its limits with the greateſt intrepidity and perſeverance.

MIGRATION. Although this is not a property that may be ranked among thoſe of their general nature, yet as it is a diſpoſition which is found in many ſpecies of

of birds, we could not claſs among thoſe particulars which diſtinguiſh individuals from each other. We hope, therefore, to be excuſed for inſerting it in this part of the work.

MIGRATION is that paſſage of birds from one climate to another, according as they are impelled by fear, hunger, or change of ſeaſon. Many have been the conjectures and relations of naturaliſts and travellers reſpecting this extraordinary conduct in ſuch birds as the cuckoo, turtle, ſtork, crane, quail, goat-ſucker, woodcock, ſwallow, nightingale, black-cap, wheat-ear, ſtone-chat, winter-chat, willow-wren, white-throat, etotoli, fly-catcher, wild-duck, plovers, cranes, &c. Some have ſuppoſed thoſe birds who were not ſtrong enough to ſuſtain a long flight over expanding oceans, collected themſelves in bodies and repaired to chaſms in rocks, or ſought a temporary tomb beneath the waters, where they remained in a torpid ſtate, until nature more clement ſhould recal them to exerciſe again their reviving functions. Others have more rationally imagined they actually ſought climes more

congenial to their nature and ſubſiſtence, where cold and ſcarcity rendered the country of their ſojournment dangerous to their nature, or inconvenient to their enjoyments. The times of their departure and return are exceedingly regular. In the courſe of five years, the average of both has not exceeded more than a ſingle day. Thoſe tribes who have not ſtrength to extend their flights over vaſt deſerts and immenſe oceans, are formed by nature to find accommodation in climes not ſo diſtant. Such are ſwallows, martins, &c. They are very properly imagined to find a winter ſubſiſtence in the ſouthern countries of Europe, where the clemency of the ſeaſon hoſpitably invites their viſits when ours become too frigid and barren for exiſtence, as well as neceſſities. We ſhould rather imagine every bird of paſſage viſits a country which the revolting ſeaſons adapt alternately congenial to its conſtitution.

It has been obſerved that ſome birds, which are migratory in particular climates, are conſtant inhabitants in others. Herodotus relates, that there are a ſpecies of ſwallows which perpetually abide in Egypt. This

muſt

muſt ariſe from the little difference of weather cauſed by the change of ſeaſon in that part of Africa. We imagine, therefore, this property is not peculiar to any ſpecies of bird, but is rather cauſed by the nature of the country and climate where they are bred, always affording ſufficient accommodation for their ſuſtenance and enjoyment. For in Cayan, Java, and other warm climates thoſe birds which are uniformly migratory in the cold regions of Norway, North America, and Kamſchatka, are conſtant reſidents through every change of ſeaſon. The manner in which they depart is too curious to be unnoticed. They generally range themſelves in a column like an I, or in two lines reſembling the two ſides of a wedge. When they have taken flight one particular bird commences leader. He continues ſome diſtance when he is relieved by another. In this progreſs of emigrating, ſeveral particulars occur to excite our wonder at this ſurpriſing phenomenon, and our veneration of that immenſity of wiſdom which has formed theſe birds with ſo extraordinary an inſtinct. Who acquainted the young with the time, the place,

and neceſſity of departure? Who encourages them to exchange the place of their nativity for a ſtrange country? Who cauſes the impriſoned bird to feel its captivity when the moment of emigration arrives? Who is the herald to aſſemble theſe feathered voyagers and travellers? Who forbids one to depart before the time appointed? Who formed their charts or who ſupplied them with a compaſs, by which they direct themſelves over the pathleſs waſte and trackleſs ocean? Or who is their guide to thoſe iſlands and countries where they can reſt and recruit themſelves, ſo as to enable them to reach their deſtined ſojournment? As theſe queſtions are all to be referred to the forming hand of their creator, we cannot avoid learning this leſſon of humility, that whatever is the boaſt of human reaſon, it vaniſhes when compared with this wonderful inſtinct of emigrative power in birds.

CLASSES OF BIRDS.

ACCORDING to Linnæus, birds are divided into the following ſix claſſes:—The rapacious kind, the pie kind, the poultry kind, the ſparrow kind, the duck kind, and the crane kind. Land birds comprehend the four firſt claſſes, and water birds the two latter.

I. RAPACIOUS KIND. Theſe are ſuch carnivorous birds as live by preying on others, or eating the fleſh of dead animals.

II. PIE KIND. This claſs of birds is diſtinguiſhed by their miſcellaneous food, and their females being fed by the males during their time of breeding.

III. POULTRY KIND. Their bodies are fat and muſcular, their fleſh white and pure. Strangers to any attachment, they are, unlike other birds, promiſcuous in the choice of their mates.

IV. SPARROW KIND. The vocal and beauteous birds compoſe moſtly the ſparrow kind. Part of them live on grain, and others on inſects. During the time

of their being raiſed, they are remarkably fond and faithful.

V. Duck Kind. The bills of this claſs of birds, ſerve as ſtrainers for their food. Their toes being webbed form their feet for ſwimming in waters where they moſtly reſide.

VI. Crane Kind. This claſs of the feathered race, has the bill formed ſo long and penetrating, as to be able to ſearch for food at the bottom of waters, near which they chiefly reſide. Their necks and legs are proportionable in length. Their thighs are ſcantily feathered, their ſkin is thick, their tail ſhort, and their fleſh is ſavory. They moſtly build their neſts on the ground.

Having deſcribed the particulars which diſtinguiſh the ſix claſſes of birds, as divided by Linnæus, we ſhall begin the deſcription of birds as individuals, with thoſe few that cannot be ranged ſyſtematically, ſuch as the oſtrich, caſſowar, condour, dodo, &c. Being extraordinary large, and incapable of perfectly flying, is the reaſon they deviate too much from every bird of which the ſix claſſes are compoſed.

OSTRICH.

THIS bird, according to WILLOUGHBY, and other naturaliſts, is one of the largeſt in the world. Her head, which reſembles that of a duck, riſes above the height of a man on horſeback. Her body is like the camels. She has two ſhort wings, which, although exceſſively ſtrong, are not expanſive enough to buoy her

her from the ſurface of the earth. But with their aſſiſtance, and the length of her legs, ſhe exceeds, in ſpeed, the moſt ſwift Arabian courſers. She has legs and thighs like a heron, and each foot has three claws covered with horn, the elaſtic ſtrength of which greatly facilitates and increaſes her flight.

Her eggs are larger than the head of an infant, and commonly weigh as much as fifteen pounds. Although the diſregard of their future progeny is denied by Holben, who affirms, that he has ſeen them ſit on their eggs at the Cape of Good Hope. Though ſhe deſerts them by day, ſhe always, like other birds, returns to them at night. This we think may be dictated to them by nature, from the climate at the Cape being ſuch as to acquire the heat of the brooding bird. But in thoſe parts of Africa that are nearer the equator, we conceive they do, as reported, leave their eggs to be hatched by the ſun, but not without the precaution of covering them in the ſand, and bringing worms and other proviſions for the young at the time of hatching; for in birds,

as

as in every other creature, we find nature conforms to the neceſſity of the ſoil and clime they are deſtined to inhabit. The ignorance and ſimplicity of the Oſtrich is particularly obſervable, in her ſuppoſing, when ſhe only hides her head, the reſt of her body is ſecreted and ſecured from the hunters.

THE amazing power ſhe has of digeſting the moſt crude ſubſtances of ſtones, iron, &c. evinces the wiſdom of the Creator, in giving this bird ſuch a faculty as turns to nutriment thoſe things which her barren and native deſerts afford for her ſubſiſtence.

THIS bird ſeems to fill one of thoſe voids there are in nature, between the quadruped and the feathered race, as the bat does another. The Oſtrich reſembles the camel in the ſame proportion as the bat does the mouſe.

To the beauty of her plumage, ſhe owes her deſtruction. But in return ſhe triumphs over man; for the feathers her death affords her purſuers, attend the hearſe of man to the grave.

THE

THE CASSOWAR

IS found in the ſouthern parts of the Eaſt Indies. It is about five feet and half high. The wings are ſo ſmall, as to be ſcarcely perceptible. On its head, it has a creſt three inches high reſembling an helmet. Every feather of this bird is adapted for flight. None are entirely deſtined for covering. The extremities of the

the feathers are armed with five prickles, the longeſt of which is eleven inches. It is deſcribed to have the head of a warrior, the eye of a lion, the defence of a porcupine, and the fleetneſs of a courſer. Although thus provided for defence or hoſtility, it is ſo inoffenſive a creature as never to attack another. Its progreſſive motion is ſo ſingular as to be neither walking, running, hopping, jumping, or flying; for it kicks up one leg behind, and bounds forward with the other with ſuch velocity as to outſpeed the ſwifteſt racer.

This bird, like the oſtrich, is extremely voracious of all things capable of paſſing its ſwallow. The Dutch aſſert, that it not only devours glaſs, iron, and ſtones, but even burning coals, without the leaſt fear or injury. The Caſſowar is ſuppoſed to be not ſo prolific as the oſtrich, from its being more ſcarcely found. This deficiency in their number may be more owing to their native place being more uſurped by man, than from any defect of fecundity; for its natural armour and di-

geſtive

geſtive faculty evince that it is deſtined for the deſert, and not for the plains of cultivation. So that, like other wild animals, when they have diſputed in vain with man, the poſſeſſion of their own territories, this bird may have withdrawn to other parts where it enjoys the ſolitary deſert, for which it is peculiarly formed by nature.

THE DODO.

THE inactive appearance of the Dodo, ſeems to fill another void between beaſts and birds, which is that between the ſloth, and a more active individual than itſelf of the feathered tribe. Its body is almoſt round, exceſſively maſſive, and covered with grey feathers. The legs reſemble the pillars of a fixed build-

ing,

ing, but not ſufficiently ſtrong to ſupport it. The neck is thick, and the head has two wide chaps which open beyond the eyes. The bill is extremely long and thick, and reſembles two pointed ſpoons laid on the back of each other. It has a ſtupid and voracious phyſiognomy. In a word it is a complete picture of ſluggiſh deformity.

Like the ſloth it is incapable of defence or flight. It is a native of the iſle of France, where it was firſt found by the Dutch. Some aſſert the fleſh is nauſeous, while others contend it is palatable and wholeſome. Three or four Dodos ſuffice to dine one hundred ſailors. It is thought by ſome travellers, to be the ſame as the bird of Nazareth. The deſcription of both being exactly ſimilar.

This ſeems to be an entire exception to the general nature of birds, both in appearance and activity. Except the night birds, ſuch as owls, &c. there is ſcarcely any one but is agreeable in its form, and remarkably alert

alert in its mobility. But this appears formed to diſguſt the ſpectator, and to be almoſt an immoveable burleſque of the bird creation. Were we to give our opinion of the final cauſe of creating ſo unſeemly an animal, we ſhould ſay, that it was formed as a foil to the various beauties diſcovered in the reſt of the feathered tribe.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

IS in length about three feet nine inches, and in breadth eight ſpans. The bill is very ſtrong, ſharp, and crooked. The eye has four lids to cover or guard it from exceſſive light, and external injuries. The toes are covered with ſcales, and the claws are exceedingly ſtrong and formidable. This bird is found in the mountainous

mountainous parts of Ireland, where its fierceneſs has been obſerved to be ſo great as to attack a cat, dog, ſheep, &c. It laying ſeldom more than two eggs, ſhews that providence thus prevents too large an increaſe of what may prove offenſive, if not deſtructive to the poſſeſſions of mankind. Some of theſe birds have been found in Wales.

The male engages in the maintenance of the young for the firſt three months, when the female undertakes and continues in this employment until the brood are capable of providing for themſelves. The Eagle flies the higheſt of all birds, and is therefore, called the bird of heaven. Bochart aſſerts that it lives a century, and that they increaſe in bulk until the period of death. Such is their thirſt for rapine and ſlaughter, that they never drink any other liquid but blood unleſs they are ſick. This king of birds is ſaid to have only the ſwan among his ſubjects who dare reſiſt him. All the others, and even the dragon, tremble at his terrific cry. Not contented with preying on birds, and the

ſmaller beaſts, the Eagle will plunge into ſeas, lakes, and rivers for fiſh. His ſight is more acute than that of any other bird. He carries the young on his back to ſecure them from the fowler. His feathers are renovated every ten years, which greatly increaſes his vigour, as expreſſed in the beautiful ſimile of DAVID, "Thy youth ſhall be renewed like that of the eagle." The Eagle that would not quit the corpſe of PYRRHUS who had brought him up from a neſtling, evinces this bird is capable of attachment and gratitude.

THERE are ſixteen other ſorts of Eagles, namely, the Sun Eagle, bold Eagle, ring Eagle, black Eagle, the oſprey bird, crowned Eagle, common Eagle, white Eagle, rough-footed Eagle, Emu, Juan le Blanc, Brazilian Eagle, Oroonoko Eagle, Eagle of Pondicherry, Morpnas or Conguror Eagle, Vultuſine Eagle.

THE CONDOUR OF AMERICA.

IT is doubtful whether this bird is more allied to the eagle or the vulture. Its force and vivacity reſemble the former while the baldneſs of its head and neck are like the latter. No bird can compare with it for ſize, ſtrength, rapacity, and rapidity of flight. It is, therefore, more formidable than the eagle to birds,

beaſts, and even to mankind. The rarity of this pernicious and deſtructive bird, is another inſtance of the care providence has taken to balance the increaſe of animals in proportion to their utility or ferocious propenſity; for were the Condour as prolific or as common as others of the feathered tribe, it would ſpread univerſal devaſtation.

ACCORDING to Sir HANS SLOANE, one was ſhot by Capt. STRONG, not far from Mocha, an iſland in the ſouth ſeas on the coaſt of Chili. It was ſitting on a cliff on the ſhore. The wings, when extended, meaſured from each extremity 16 feet. One of its feathers, now in the Britiſh muſeum, is 2 feet 4 inches long; the quill part five inches and three quarters, and one inch and half in circumference. Its weight was three drachms, ſeventeen grains and half. The colour is a dark brown.

ACCORDING to GARCILASIO DE LA VAGA, ſeveral of them have been killed by the Spaniards, who found they meaſured in general from wing to wing fif-

teen

teen or ſixteen feet. To prevent the too fatal exerciſe of their fierceneſs, nature has denied them ſuch talons as ſhe has given to the eagle. They have only claws as harmleſs as a hen. Their beaks are, however, ſtrong enough to tear off the hide, and penetrate the bowels of an ox. Two of them are frequently known to attack and devour a cow or bull. It has often happened that a boy of ten years of age has nearly fallen their prey. The Spaniſh inhabitants of Chili are, therefore, in continual dread of theſe birds devouring their children in their abſence. To allure them, they preſent the form of a child made of very glutinous clay, on which they dart with ſuch rapidity, and penetrate ſo deeply with their beaks that they cannot diſengage themſelves. The Indians aſſert they will ſeize and bear aloft a deer or a young calf, as eaſy as eagles do a hare or a rabbit.

NATURE apprizes all of its approach, by cauſing it to make ſo great a noiſe with its wings as almoſt to oc-

caſion deafneſs. The body is as large as a ſheep, and as diſagreeable as carrion. Thus man is not ſuffered to loſe any food from the wiſe and providential ſcarcity of this terrific and devouring creature. Foreſts not affording room for its flight, are never infeſted with his depredations. They moſtly dwell in mountains, and viſit the ſhores at night, when rain or tempeſt drive their finny prey thither for ſhelter.

THE KING OF THE VULTURES.

THIS bird differs from the eagle in its indelicate voracity, and preying more upon carrion than live animals. This diſpoſition ſeems wiſely deſigned by providence to prevent the nauſeous and epidemical effects that might ariſe from carcaſſes being left to putrify on the earth. Its preying upon the eggs of the crocodiles, who

who lay each of them at leaſt two or three hundred in the ſands, is another diſpenſation which prevents too great an increaſe of ſo deſtructive an animal.

In form, they are diſtinguiſhed from the eagle moſtly by the nakedneſs of their heads and necks. Not deſtined to prey particular on living birds, &c. their flight is not ſo ſwift as eagles, falcons, and hawks. But as they are allured by putrefaction to their prey, their ſenſe of ſmelling is proportionably exquiſite. The Vulture is happily a ſtranger to England, while it is found in Arabia, Egypt, and many other kingdoms of Africa and Aſia. They have a down under the wings which is frequently ſold as a valuable fur in the African markets.

In Egypt the Vultures are ſo ſerviceable as to be permitted to flock, near Grand Cairo, where they devour the carrion of that great city, which might, otherwiſe, be liable to frequent peſtilencies.

Vultures are, likewiſe, ſerviceable in countries where the ſavage hunters purſue and deſtroy animals only

only for their ſkins: theſe birds attend them and devour the bodies before they lie long enough to corrupt the air. They eat ſo voraciouſly as to be unable to fly. But when attacked, they have the power of lightening their ſtomachs, ſo as to render them capable of effecting their eſcape.

In this tribe is ranged the golden, aſh-coloured, and brown Vultures, natives of Europe; the ſpotted and the black Vultures found in Egypt; the Brazilian Vulture; and the king of the Vultures in South America.

The king of the Vultures reſembles a turky-cock. It is remarked for the uncommon formation of the ſkin, which covers the head and neck, for it is featherleſs. A ſcarlet coloured ſkin ſurrounds the eyes which have a pearl coloured Iris. Although it is, thus diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of their deformed family, its habits are equally diſguſting, cowardly, and indolent.

The mythologiſts have expreſſed their ſenſe of the evils they ſuppoſed brought on the world by their fabulous

bulous deities, MARS and JUNO, by having conſecrated the Vulture to thoſe divinities.

THE flight and cry of theſe birds being particularly obſerved and attended to by the Roman augurs, muſt have ariſen from their conſidering where thoſe rapacious animals were moſt inclined to direct their flight, from a previous ſenſe they had of an approaching ſlaughter, which the Romans flattered themſelves was to enſue of the enemies they were preparing to engage.

THE FALCON.

THE dignified ſport of falconry that formerly diſtinguiſhed the recreation of the Engliſh nobility, has been long diſcontinued. A perſon of rank ſcarcely appeared without his falcon, which in old paintings now ſerves as the criterion of titular diſtinction, HAROLD and HENRY VI. are both remarked to be painted with falcons

falcons in ancient tablatures. To wind a horn, and to carry with grace a falcon, were then the marks of being well-bred. Learning was left for the ſtudy of children born in a more humble ſphere. In the reign of JAMES I. Sir THOMAS MONSON gave a thouſand pounds for a caſt of hawks. A perſon unqualified, taking the eggs of an hawk, even on his own ground, was impriſoned a year and a day, and fined at the pleaſure of the king. EDWARD III. made it felony to ſteal a hawk. The mark which diſtinguiſhes the generous hawk, from the baſer race of kites, ſparrow hawks, and buzzards, is the ſecond feather of the former's being the longeſt, which is in the latter the fourth. The ſuperior race poſſeſs natural powers of which the inferior are deſtitute. They purſue their game with more ſwiftneſs and confidence, and from their generoſity of temper, they are ſo attached to their feeders as to be capable of being made exceedingly tractable. Of all birds, the hawk or falcon purſues the heron, kite, and woodlark, from flying perpendicularly upward, and afford the greateſt diverſion:

verſion: the other birds flying horizontally diminiſhes the pleaſure of the ſportſman, and endangers the loſs of his hawk.

THE Norwegian breed of hawks was anciently much eſteemed in this country, they were thought worthy the acceptance of royalty. King JOHN being preſented with two by JEFFRY FITZPIERS, allowed his friend to export one hundred weight of cheeſe. JOHN, the ſon of ORDEAR, obtained the intereſt of RICHARD I. by the preſent of one Norway hawk.*

THE

* Madox Antiq. Excheq. 329, 332.

THE GYR-FALCON.

THIS ſpecies exceeds all other falcons in ſize and elegance. It is nearly as large as an eagle. The bill is hooked, yellow, and the plumage is moſtly white. The feathers of the back and wings have black ſpots in the ſhape of hearts. The thighs are cloathed with long feathers of the pureſt white. The legs are yellow and feathered

feathered below the knees. This bird is ſometimes found entirely white. It was uſed in the ſport of Falconry to fly at the nobleſt game, ſuch as cranes and herons.

Of this ſpecie of birds may be claſſed the Peregrina Falcon, the Banbury Falcon, the Sacre, the Mountain Falcon, Grey Falcon, White Falcon, Tunis or Barbary Falcon, and the

Falcon Gentle. This bird is known from the other Falcons, by the neck being ſurrounded with a light yellow ring. A French author has obſerved that Falcons are differently named according to the time of their being taken as follow:

Falcons taken in June, July, & Aug. are called Gentle.
——————— Sept. Oct. Nov. and Dec. — Pilgrims.
——————— Jan. Feb. and March, — Hagar, from the the Hebrew word, which ſignifies a ſtranger.

GOSHAWK.

THIS bird is larger than the common buzzard. Its form is longer and more elegant. The breaſt and belly are white, and beautifully ſtreaked with tranſverſe lines of black and white. This ſpecies, and the Sparrow Hawk are diſtinguiſhed by the name of ſhort-winged Hawks,

Hawks, from their wings, when cloſed, not reaching ſo far as the end of the tail. This bird was much eſteemed, and taught by Falconers, to purſue cranes, wild geeſe, pheaſants, and patridges.

KITE.

THE Kite differs from all the reſt of the ſpecies, by his forked tail, ſlow, floating motion, and being almoſt perpetually on the wing. Inſtead of uſing his wings when flying, he appears to reſt on the boſom of the air. PLINY ſuppoſes the invention of the rudder is owing to mankind having noticed the Kite's mode of uſing its tail to direct its flight. Every bird in the air being capable of eſcaping their purſuit, Kites are obliged to ſubſiſt on accidental carnage, which they devour like a famiſhed ſavage, without the leaſt mercy or moderation.

THEIR hunger often makes them deſperate. They ſometimes attack a brood of chickens.

THIS bird uſually breeds in large foreſts or woody mountains. The hen lays two or three eggs, which, like thoſe of other birds of prey, are larger at the narrow end than thoſe laid by the other ſpecies. Lord BACON obſerved, that fine and dry weather is portended by the high flight of this bird. It has falſely been reckoned among the birds of paſſage. Its length is twenty-ſeven inches, its breadth five feet, and its weight forty-four ounces. As this bird poſſeſſes no peculiarity of plumage, we omit giving an unintereſting detail of its feathers. We have only to obſerve that they ſometimes differ in their colour, for ſome are entirely tawny, while others are ſomewhat varigated.

COMMON BUZZARD.

THIS bird is remarkably inactive. It will frequently remain a whole day on the ſame bough. Frogs, mice, and inſects are its chief ſuſtenance. The reaſon of preferring theſe, ſeems from his rather chooſing to content himſelf with this inferior prey, than be at the trouble of flying after birds. In ſummer he lives by robbing neſts and ſucking the eggs. He reſembles the owl in countenance more than any other bird of day. Should the hen Buzzard be killed, the cock will hatch and rear the young. He breeds in large woods, and uſually builds in a crow's neſt. The young accompany the old ones ſome little time after they can fly, which diſtinguiſhes them from all other birds of prey. He is ſubject to vary in his plumage. Some have brown breaſts and bellies, and ſome are only marked on the breaſt with a white creſcent. They are

about twenty-two inches long, two wide, and thirty-two ounces in weight. There are beſides of the Buzzard, or Hawk kind, the Honey, Moor, and Turkey Buzzard, the Hen-harrier, Keſtril and Hobby.

SPARROW HAWK.

THERE is a great difference in ſize between the male and female of this bird. The latter nearly weighs twice as much as the former. They vary conſiderably in their plumage. But the back, head, coverts of the wings, and tail are moſtly of a blue grey. This bird makes great depredations among pigeons and partridges. The Sparrow Hawk was greatly venerated by the Egyptians. They choſe it as the repreſentative of their god Oſiris. To kill one of them was puniſhed with death. The Greeks conſecrated this bird to Apollo. It was one of the ſymbols of Opero, from its fixed and piercing ſight, reſembling the jealous obſervance of that goddeſs.

MERLIN

THE MERLIN

IS the ſmalleſt of Hawks. It is not much larger than a thruſh. It has been known to kill quails, and partridges, diſplays ſuch courage as to render it as formidable as birds of ſix times his magnitude.

THE female of this ſpecies is like that of all other birds of prey, conſiderably larger than the male. This bird was known to our anceſtors by the name of Lmyſden.

THE GRATA BUTCHER BIRD

LEADS a life of perpetual hoſtility. It is about the ſize of a black-bird. From its carnivorous appetite, it participates of the nature of birds of prey, and from its ſlender legs, feet, and toes being different from the former, it partakes of the nature of thoſe birds that live

upon grain, inſects, &c. When it has killed its prey, it hangs it upon a thorn, as a butcher hangs a carcaſe, and then pulls it in pieces with his bill. Its uſual food is ſmall birds, which they ſeize by the throat and ſtrangle in an inſtant. The old and young ſeek their prey in concert. It is ten inches long, fourteen broad, and three ounces in weight. The back and covert of the wings are aſh colour. Each ſide of the head is white.

Red Backed Butcher Bird. The head and the lower part of the back are of a fine light grey. The breaſt, belly, and ſide are of an elegant bloſſom colour.

Wood Chat. This bird weighs about two ounces. The bill is the colour of horn. The upper parts of the back, wings, and tail are duſky. The throat, breaſt, and belly are of a cream colour.

Least Butcher Bird. Although it is not much larger than a titmouſe, it is a bird of prey. The head is of a fine grey, and beneath each eye is a tuft of black feathers.

OWL.

OWL.

THE rapacious birds of the day being deſcribed, we proceed to thoſe of the night. This ſpecies are equally cruel and more treacherous. To fill the chain of nature, theſe birds of prey employ the night in their devaſtations, and thus prevent any chaſm in the round of

of time, being employed in either ſelf-defence, or depredation. Owls are diſtinguiſhed from all other birds by having eyes adapted more for the purpoſes of darkneſs than of light. Like tigers and cats who ſubſiſt by their nocturnal watchfulneſs, Owls have a ſight that is capable of diſcemal, in what man would conceive to be total darkneſs. They, however, by no means, as ſome have falſely imagined, ſee beſt in total darkneſs. When the light is a medium between the glare of day, and the gloom of night, is the time Owls perceive with the moſt perſpicuity. More light is, therefore, moſt adapted for their nocturnal purſuits. But in the different ſpecies of Owls, the faculty of ſight greatly differs.

Their note is hideous. Such is the antipathy of ſmall birds to the Owl, that when one appears by day-light in a grove, all the feathered inhabitants ſurround, inſult, and beat him. So great is the utility of this diſguſting bird, that one will be more ſerviceable than ſix cats in deſtroying the vermin of a barn.

As

As a ſubject of vigilance, the Owl was conſecrated to MINERVA. The Owl ſeems to fill that chaſm between quadrupeds and the feathered race, which is obſerved between the cat and birds.

THE GREAT HORNED OWL is nearly as large as an eagle. He has ſome feathers that riſe from his head. Theſe he can elevate or lower at pleaſure. The back and coverts of the wings are varied with deep brown and yellow. It uſually breeds in a cavern, a hollow tree, or a ruined caſtle. Its neſt is nearly three feet in diameter. This ſpecies is ſometimes found in Cheſhire, Wales, and the north of England.

LESSER HORNED OWL. The wings are ſo long as to reach when cloſed beyond their tails. The feathers of the head, back, and covert of the wings are brown, edged with yellow. The tip of the tail is white. There is a ſmaller kind of the horned Owl, not much larger than a thruſh.

WHITE OWL. This bird is the moſt domeſtic. The colour of it being moſtly white, is the cauſe of its being called the White Owl.

BROWN

Brown Owl. The head, wings and back, of this bird, are of a deep brown, elegantly ſpotted with black. It remains the whole day in the woods, which it inhabits.

Little Owl. This bird is remarkable for its elegance, and not being much larger than a thruſh. The back and covert of the wings are of a deep olive.

Screech Owl has blue eyes, and a cion grey plumage.

BIRDS of the POULTRY Kind.

THIS ſpecies are diſtinguiſhed for being the moſt harmleſs, and the moſt ſerviceable to man. He may compel the rapacious tribes to aſſiſt his pleaſures in the field, or induce the warblers to delight him with their ſongs, but he can never obtain from thoſe domeſtic advantages he deſires from the poultry kind, which not only conſiderably ſupply the neceſſaries of life, but furniſh man with his greateſt dainties.

Most of them that we have in a domeſtic ſtate, are of foreign origin. There are many others that ſtill live in their firſt ſtate of nature. We have greatly increaſed the tame poultry, we have imported from diſtant climates. But thoſe wild birds of the poultry kind that have never yet been domeſticated, are perpetually diminiſhed by their conſtant deſtruction.

Birds of the poultry kind have white fleſh, and very large bodies compared with their limbs. Their bills are

are ſhort and ſtrong, for the purpoſe of picking up grain which is their chief food. And as they are not deſtined for diſtant flight, they have ſhort and concave wings. They lay a number of eggs, and lead their young abroad the inſtant they are hatched. They uſually make their neſts on the ground, although they rooſt on perches. Their toes, as far as the firſt articulation, are united by a membrane. We may, therefore, rank under this claſs, the Common Cock, Peacock, Turkey, Guinea Hen, Pheaſant, Buſtard, Grouſe, Partridge, and Quail. All theſe are fleſhy, granivorous, and delicate to the taſte.

COCK.

COCK.

OF all birds, the Cock ſeems to have been the firſt reclaimed from the foreſt to gratify the luxury and amuſement of man. This bird, in its domeſtic ſtate, is liable to many differencies. There is a ſpecie in Japan, that ſeem to be covered with hair inſtead of

of feathers. Theſe varieties evince the length of time they have endured captivity; for all theſe departures from their original characteriſtic ariſes from the mixture of breeds cauſed by their being brought from different countries, and allowed to corrupt, inſtead of improving the ſtock. It is generally acknowledged the Cock was brought from Perſia, but when, is not aſcertained. This bird has been, however, ſo long in this country, that it was one of the forbidden foods among the antient Britons. They are now ſo natural to this country, that were they not ſometimes found in the iſlands of the India ocean, we ſhould doubt, not only whether they were natural to any other country, but whether they ever enjoyed a ſtate of wild, but natural liberty. The Cock was called by ARISTOPHANES, the Perſian bird, to ſhew the right country where it was produced.

No creature is ſo courageous when oppoſed to his own ſpecies, eſpecially if it be for the poſſeſſion of his hens.

To

To his bravery, even princes themſelves in different parts of the world have, to their ſhame, owed their amuſement. Heathens might have fallen into this error. But that Chriſtians, who profeſs themſelves the patrons of compaſſion, can take delight in ſetting theſe unoffending animals to deſtroy each other, we can only attribute to a barbarous propenſity in human nature, which we cannot but lament.

Of the Cock, there are two other diſtinguiſhed ſpecies, called the Bantam and Hamburgh Cocks.

PEACOCK.

THE Italians, not unaptly, obſerve that this bird has the plumage of an angel, the voice of a demon, and the appetite of a thief. It firſt came from India. They are ſtill found in vaſt flocks in the iſlands of Ceylon and Java. The beauty of this bird firſt deprived

it

it of its liberty, and is, therefore, a demonſtration that beauty is not only deſtructive to the human, but the animal poſſeſſor. So early as the days of SOLOMON, apes and peacocks we find among the articles imported from Tarſhiſh.* They were ſo much eſteemed by the Grecians, that a male and female were worth above 30l. ſterling. When they were firſt introduced into Greece, they were made a public exhibition. HORTENSIUS, the orator, was the firſt who ſerved them up as a table entertainment. They were, afterwards, conſidered as the firſt of viands, and one of the greateſt ornaments of the feaſt. But ſoon after, their palatable fame declined; for FRANCIS the firſt ſerved them up in their plumage, as an exhibition, but not as a dainty.

To deſcribe the Peacock as conciſe as poſſible, we have only to obſerve that, the head, neck, and beginning of the breaſt are of a deep blue. On the crown is a tuft of green feathers. They have a tail, which they ſpread with all the vanity of a conceited beauty.

* 1 Kings x. 22.

Nothing can poſſibly equal the charming aſſemblage of colour the tail diſplays. Not all the colours of the rainbow afford more ſplendour than the eye of one feather. The gold, cheſnut, green, and blue of each eye are ſo happily diſpoſed as to form the fineſt harmony as well as contraſt of colour that can poſſibly be conceived. The bird himſelf is ſo ſenſible of this diſtinguiſhed array, that he is never ſo proud as when he exhibits this unrivalled pencilling of the Divine Artiſt, to whom he is indebted for his form and exiſtence.

PHEASANT.

SUCH is the beautiful plumage of this bird, that many eſteem it next to the peacock. CRÆSUS, king of Lydia, when ſeated on his throne, arrayed in all the ſplendour of the Eaſt, aſked SOLON, if he had ever ſeen any thing ſo fine. The philoſopher replied that,

having ſeen a Pheaſant, he could be aſtoniſhed at no other finery.

THE Pheaſant is certainly moſt beautiful and elegant. But ſtill there are many birds in the creation, that can vie, as well as the peacock, with it in plumage. Its chief beauties are, the eyes being yellow, ſurrounded with ſcarlet, ſprinkled with black ſpots; on the fore part of the head, black feathers mixed with a gloſſy purple; the top of the head, and the upper part of the neck, tinged with a darkiſh ſhining green; the back, ſides, breaſt, and ſhoulders of a black colour, that changes to purple, according to the ſite of the ſpectator, and under the purple a tranſverſe ſtrake of gold colour.

THE tail is about eighteen inches long, the legs, feet, and toes are of a horn colour. Two of the toes are connected by a membrane.

THIS bird is not only beautiful to the eye, but it is extremely delicate to the taſte. But as if it diſdained the commerce of man, it has left him, to take ſhelter

ſhelrer in the thickeſt woods and remoteſt foreſts. To its unlimited freedom may, therefore, be attributed the fine flavour of its fleſh.

Beside the Pheaſant bred in the country, there are the Horned-Indian, Red China, White China, Peacock, and Brazilian Pheaſants.

BUSTARD.

THIS is the largeſt native land bird in Britain. The male weighs, at a medium rate, twenty-five pounds. It is about nine feet broad, and four feet long. The neck and head are aſh coloured, and the back is barred tranſverſely with black, bright, and ruſt colour. The

The greater quill feathers are black, the belly white, and the tail, conſiſting of twenty feathers, is marked with broad ſtripes of red and black; the legs are of a duſky colour.

The female is about half the ſize of the male. The Buſtard was much more numerous in Britain than it is at preſent. This decreaſe in the ſpecies, has been owing to the increaſed cultivation of the country, and the extreme delicacy of its fleſh, which has induced the ſportſman to revel in its deſtruction. But what ſtill more has cauſed its preſent ſcarcity is, the bird being incapable, from its ſize and ſlow flight, of eſcaping the aim of the gun. The Buſtard now inhabits ſuch open grounds as Saliſbury Plains, Newmarket, and Royſton Heaths, Dorſetſhire uplands, and thoſe of Marſh or Lothian in Scotland.

They run very faſt, and, although ſlow in flight, will when on wing, continue their progreſs without reſting for ſeveral miles. They take flight with ſuch difficulty that they are frequently run down by grey-hounds. The Buſtard ſeldom wanders above twenty

or

or thirty miles from their haunts. They live on berries that grow on Heaths, and on earth worms that are found on Downs, before ſun-riſing.

As a ſecurity againſt drought, nature has furniſhed the males with a pouch, which will contain near ſeven quarts of water. The male being thus accommodated, may be, moſt probably, to ſupply the hen when ſitting, or the young, until they can fly.

They live about fifteen years, and cannot be rendered domeſtic, from being incapable of a ſufficient ſupply of the food they delight in; but when they enjoy their wild exiſtence.

Beside the above, there are the Indian and Little Buſtard.

BIRDS of the PIE Kind.

THE pie kind are not formed for war, although they generally delight in miſchief. This is characteriſtic of man, for thoſe of the human ſpecies, who delight in wantonly hurting or teazing their neighbours, ſeldom

ſeldom poſſeſs the nobility of courage. The pie kind perpetually harraſs other birds without ſhewing the leaſt enmity. Under this claſs, may be arranged all that noiſy, reſtleſs, chattering tribe, that from the ſize of the raven, down to that of the wood-pecker, flutters around our habitations, and with the ſpirit of pilferers, makes free with the fruits of human induſtry.

This is the claſs of birds which leaſt contributes to either the pleaſures or neceſſities of man. Theſe birds are as remarkable for their inſtinct as for their capacity to receive inſtruction; cunning and archneſs are obſervable in the whole tribe. Ravens and crows are taught to fetch and carry with the docility of a ſpaniel. Although birds of the pie kind differ in ſome particulars from each other, yet they all agree in having hoarſe voices, ſlender active bodies, and a facility of flight that baffles the boldeſt of the rapacious birds that purſue them. Of this claſs we ſhall ſelect the following few, as the moſt deſerving of our attention.

TOUCAN.

TOUCAN.

THE ſize and ſhape of this bird reſembles a Jack Daw. It has a remarkable large head to ſupport a monſtrous bill, which from the angles of its mouth to its point, is ſix inches and a half; the breadth in the thickeſt part, exceeds two inches. But the bill it-

ſelf

ſelf is not much thicker than parchment. Some have falſely thought the Toucan had no noſtrils, from their being almoſt covered with feathers, and placed in the upper part of the bill.

THERE are between the white on the breaſt, and black on the belly, a parcel of red feathers in the form of a creſcent, with the horns upwards. The toes are diſpoſed like thoſe of parrots, two before and two behind.

THIS bird is ſo eaſily tamed, that it will hatch its young in houſes. It is ſaid, its food is pepper, which it eats in a very gluttonous manner. POZZO, who bred one, aſſerts, that it reſembles a magpie, in voice and motion. Naturaliſts ſeem to think that the Toucan uſes his tongue in all thoſe purpoſes in which other birds uſe their bills. The bill, therefore, is very naturally conceived to be only a ſheath for the tongue, which is very large and ſtrong.

THIS bird inhabits only the warm climates of South America, where it is much eſteemed for the delicacy of

of its fleſh, and the beauty of its plumage. The feathers of the breaſt are particularly admired by the Indians, who pluck them from this part of the ſkin, which when dry, they glue to their cheeks as an irreſiſtible addition to female beauty.

When we contemplate the bird creation, we cannot but conſider with amazement, how variouſly nature has formed their bills, wings, feet and bodies according to thoſe natural wants, which the peculiarity of their diſpoſition or ſituation require. A more ſtriking inſtance of this, cannot be produced than the bird before our preſent conſideration.

GREEN WOOD-PECKER.

OF this bird there are many kinds and varieties in each kind. They form large colonies in the foreſts of almoſt every part of the world. The wiſdom of Providence in the admirable formation of animals, according to their reſpective natures, cannot be better illuſtrated than from this genius.

WOOD-PECKERS, feeding entirely upon inſects, and their principal action being neceſſarily that of climbing up and down the trunks or branches of trees, are provided with a long ſlender tongue, armed with a ſharp bony end, barbed on each ſide, which, by the aſſiſtance of a curious apparatus of muſcles, they can dart to a great length into the clefts of the bark, from whence they draw out the lurking inſects on which they feed.

WHEN a Wood-pecker diſcovers a rotten, hollow tree, it cries aloud, which ſo alarms the inſect colony, that

that they are immediately put in confuſion, while the bird is, thus, more enabled to riot on his prey. This bird deſtroying the inſects, that are found even on trees that are not entirely decayed, may be deſigned by nature to be the means of reſtoring them to their priſtine vigour. Woodpeckers are, likewiſe, uſeful in deſtroying broods of ants, on which they feed, as well as on wood-worms and inſects. To take the ants, the Woodpecker adopts the following curious ſtratagem. He darts his red tongue into the ant-hill. The ants, from the reſemblance, ſuppoſing it their uſual prey, immediately ſettle in myriads upon it, when the Woodpecker withdrawing it, devours the devourer.

The green Wood-pecker is about 13 inches long, 21 broad, and weighs ſix ounces and half. The bill is hard, ſtrong, and formed like a wedge. Dr. Derham, obſerves, that a neat ridge runs along the top as if an artiſt had deſigned it for ſtrength and beauty. The back, neck, and leſſer coverts of the wings are green, and the rump is of a pale yellow.

GREAT

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

THIS bird is about nine inches long, ſixteen broad, and two ounces and three quarters in weight. The bill is of a black horn colour, and the forehead of a pale buff colour. The crown of the head is of a gloſſy black, and the hind part is marked with a rich deep crimſon ſpot. The cheeks are white, bounded beneath by a

black line, which paſſes from the corner of the mouth, and ſurrounds the hind part of the head. The neck is encircled with black, and the throat and breaſt are of a yellowiſh white. The back, rump, coverts of the tail, and leſſer coverts of the wings are black. Each of the black quill feathers have their webs elegantly marked with round white ſpots. The four middle feathers of the tail are black, the next are tipped with dirty yellow, and the ends of the two outermoſt are black.

The legs are of a red colour. The colours of the female agree with thoſe of the male, except in her not having the beautiful crimſon ſpot he has on his head.

Added to the above, are the leſſer ſpotted, and the Guinea Wood-pecker.

BIRD OF PARADISE.

THERE are of this ſpecies nine ſorts, according to ſome naturaliſts. But our countryman, Mr. EDWARDS, deſcribe only the three following:—The greater Bird of Paradiſe, the king of the Birds of Paradiſe, and the gold Bird of Paradiſe.

THE Bird of Paradiſe, deſcribed by MORTIMER,

is as large as a ſwallow. The feathers about the beak are as ſoft as ſilk; green and brown above, and black below, the top of the neck is of a gold colour. Underneath the neck is a mixture of gold and green; the long feathers on the ſides are of a gold colour near the riſe, and in other parts of a whitiſh yellow.

THE king of the Birds of Paradiſe, mentioned by CLUSIUS is the leaſt of the ſpecies.

THE golden Bird of Paradiſe has a gold-coloured neck, as well as a beak: the feet and toes are yellow; the breaſt and back of a pale orange colour, and the large feathers on the wings and tail are of a redder orange.

THE opinion of theſe birds having no feet, has been long ſince proved a vulgar error. RAY ſays, their feet are neither ſhort, ſmall, or feeble, but ſufficiently large and long, armed with crooked talons; being the members of birds of prey.

THE reflective reader will note, in every inſtance produced, the great beauty and variety of the creation, which diſplays in every part to the eye of contemplation,

tion, ſome new inſtance of the power, wiſdom, and goodneſs of the divine and almighty architect.

The Bird of Paradiſe, which is a native of the Molucca iſlands, exceeds in beauty every other bird of the pie-kind. So that the groves, which produce the richeſt ſpices, produce alſo the fineſt birds. The inhabitants, being ſenſible of the ſuperiority of theſe birds to all others, call them by the pre-eminent name of God's birds.

They emigrate with their king, which is a bird of ſuperior ſize and plumage. They leave their native country in Auguſt, when the ſtormy ſeaſon begins, and return when it ends.

There are two other Birds of Paradiſe. One that is found in the iſland of Ceylon, this has not yet been deſcribed by any naturaliſt. The other is the pied Bird of Paradiſe, which has a blackiſh bill, like a duck, and has a tail nearly as long as that of a magpie.

CUCKOO.

THE note of the Cuckoo is known to all the world, but the hiſtory and nature of the bird yet remain to be diſcovered. Some naturaliſts have aſſerted, that it devours its parent, and that it changes its nature with the ſeaſon, and becomes a ſparrow-hawk. But theſe fables

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are now ſufficiently refuted. It ſtill remains a ſecret where it reſides, and how it ſubſiſts in the winter.

The claw and bill of the Cuckoo are much weaker than thoſe of other rapacious birds. This ſingular bird is diſtinguiſhed from all others by the note, and the round prominent noſtrils on the ſurface of the bill. The head, upper part of the body, and the wings are beautifully marked with tawny and black tranſparent ſtripes. The legs are very ſhort, and cloathed with feathers down to the feet. It has a large mouth which is yellowiſh on the inſide.

This bird is the harbinger of ſpring, when he returns to glad the huſbandman with his wonted note, as a ſign of nature reſuming her wonted beauty. His note is a call to love, and is uſed only by the male to invite the female to his embraces. His ſong continues no longer than the pairing ſeaſon.

A water-wag tail, or hedge-ſparrow generally nurſes the young cuckoos that are always unnaturally deſerted by their parents.

THE note of the Cuckoo is pleaſant but uniform. It owes the power of pleaſing us, to that aſſociation of ideas which frequently render things agreeable that are not ſo in themſelves. Were we to hear the Cuckoo on the approach of winter, we ſhould think it the moſt lamentable noiſe. But as we hear it at the approach of ſpring, we cannot avoid thinking it the moſt agreeable note, from its being attached to all thoſe enjoyments with which we know nature is then teeming for our accommodation.

WHERE the Cuckoo retires in winter has baffled every conjecture of the naturaliſt.

THE length of the Cuckoo is fourteen inches, the breadth twenty-five inches, and the weight five ounces.

CARRIER.

TO give ſome idea of the pigeon tribe, which is, likewiſe, a part of the pie-kind, we have ſelected as the moſt curious and remarkable, the Carrier.

THIS bird, from the ſuperior attachment it evinces to its native place, or preſent abode, is employed in many places as the moſt expeditious courier. The Carrier is diſtinguiſhed from all other pigeons, by their eyes being ſurrounded with a broad circle of naked white ſkin, and by being of a dark blue or blackiſh colour. The upper chap of the bill is alſo covered with the ſame kind of ſkin, which reaches from the baſe to below the middle.

THESE birds are firſt brought from the place where they were bred, or where they are kept, whither it is intended to ſend them back with information. The letter is tied under the wing, and the little animal is let looſe to return. It no ſooner finds itſelf at liberty, than its paſſion for its native ſpot directs its flight. Upon theſe

theſe occaſions it flies inſtantly into the clouds to an amazing height, and then, with the greateſt ſpeed and certainty, directs itſelf by ſome moſt wonderful inſtinct towards home, which ſometimes is at ſo great a diſtance as twenty miles. Thus it brings advices to the perſons to whom they are directed with much greater ſpeed than it could, in any other manner, be tranſmitted. How they diſcover the place, or by what chart they are guided, is beyond human power to conceive. Certain it is, however, that in the ſpace of one hour and a half, they have, thus, journeyed through the trackleſs air, forty miles, which the fleeteſt quadruped would be at leaſt, three times as long in performing.

THIS practice of conveying diſpatches was much uſed in the eaſt. But Dr. RUSSEL informs us, it is entirely abandoned. In our country they have been uſed as the meſſenger of fatality, to convey intelligence to the diſtant friends of a criminal when he was launched into eternity.

IN the eaſt they had relays of pigeons ready to ſpread intelligence to all parts of the country. ANACREON informs

informs us, that he conveyed his billet-doux to his beautiful BATHYLLUS by a dove.

BIRDS OF THE SPARROW KIND.

DESCENDING from the larger to the ſmaller kinds, we are come to this claſs, which lives chiefly in the neighbourhood of man, and are its greateſt favourites. The poultry kind he conſiders his friends, but the ſparrow kind his ſervants; for theſe little painted ſongſters poſſeſs his eſteem, which they obtained by their melody or beauty. It is this warbling claſs that fills his groves with harmony, and elevates his heart to ſhare their raptures. All other birds are either mute or ſcreaming; and it is only this diminutive tribe that have their voices equal to their beauty. All the great birds dread the vicinity of man; but theſe are in the neighbourhood of cultivation, warbling the hedge-row, or mixing with the poultry in the farm-yard.

THEY are remarkably brave; for they ſometimes fight

ſight until one of them yields up his life with the victory. They all feed at firſt upon worms and inſects. When they arrive at maturity, they feed upon grain. As they devour a pernicious ſwarm of vermin that deſtroys the root before the vegetable is full grown, theſe birds are particularly uſeful to the gardener and farmer. The beſt vocal performers of this muſical tribe, are the nightingale, thruſh, black-bird, lark, red-breaſt, black-cap, wren, canary-bird, linnet, gold-finch, bull-finch, brambling, yellow-hammer, and the fiſkin.

As this claſs is too numerous to be poſſibly deſcribed in this volume, we ſhall ſelect the moſt curious of the whole, which is called the humming bird. But to compenſate for this neceſſary omiſſion of the others, we ſhall annex at the end of this volume, a brief, though particular account of the different foods with which the moſt delightful ſinging birds ought to be fed. We hope this uſeful information to all who delight in keeping theſe entertaing warblers, will amply recompence the loſs of their deſcription.

HUMMING-BIRD.

OF the Humming Bird, there is a great variety. Although this ſpecies is the leaſt, it is the moſt beautiful, inoffenſive, and delightful of all others. Humming Birds are from the ſize of a wren to a humble bee. What a contraſt does providence hold in the ſcale of its workmanſhip, when it preſents the ſmalleſt Humming Bird, beſide the largeſt oſtrich, which are the extremes of ſmall and large in the feather'd creation!

In America, they ſwarm like butterflies, or rather like bees, which they reſemble in ſize, and in their food; for on a ſummer's day, they range from flower to flower, extracting the ſweets on which they ſubſiſt. So that in theſe particulars they ſeem to connect the inſect and bird creation together.

Of this curious ſpecies of birds, there are ſeveral ſorts. The ſmalleſt has black feathers on the tail and wings. Thoſe on the body and under the wings are of

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a mixture of green and brown, gloſſed with a beautiful red. The head is adorned with a creſt, which is green at the bottom, and of a bright yellow, or gold colour at the top. The bill is black, ſtraight and ſlender. They have little ſparkling black eyes.

THEY are called Humming Birds from the rapid motion of their wings making ſuch a noiſe. Their neſt, which is not larger than half the ſize of a hen's egg, is curiouſly ſuſpended at the point of twigs of an orange, citron, or pomgranate tree.

LABAT aſſerts, their feeble voices produce a moſt pleaſing melancholy melody.

THEIR plumage was formerly uſed by the Indians in adorning their belts and head-dreſſes. But, at preſent, they take the bird rather to ſell it as a curioſity, than to depſoil it of its feathers.

Of this claſs there are the larger humming bird, long-tail'd black-cap'd humming bird, the little humming bird with a crooked bill, another with a black bill, the green humming bird, and the aſh-coloured ditto.

STARLING.

STARLING.

THIS bird having acquired a peculiar popularity from the amiable pen of Sterne,* we cannot avoid giving a ſhort deſcription of it as another bird of the ſparrow kind.

THE Stare or Starling, may be diſtinguiſhed from the

* See Sterne's Sentimental Journey, page 94.

the reſt of the ſparrow tribe, by the gloſſy green of its feathers in ſome lights, and the purple in others. The weight of the male ſpecies is above three ounces, which is rather leſs in the female. The feathers on the head, neck, and upper part of the breaſt are black, which is varied with a colour that changes to a beautiful green, or purple, according to the different ſituation of the obſerver. Its hoarſe voice is compenſated by its faculty of ſpeech. Starlings aſſemble in vaſt flocks in winter, and feed upon worms and inſects. At the approach of ſpring, they meet in fields, and, while in conſultation, ſeem to take no nourihment for ſeveral days. The majority leave the country, the reſt breed here. It is greatly admired for its aptneſs in imitating the human voice. A Starling being judiciouſly taught, frequently ſells for five or ſix guineas. They are taken at about ten days old, and may be fed in the ſame manner as young blackbirds.

THE GREAT TITMOUSE.

THIS bird is alſo called the ox-eye. It is ſix inches long, nine broad, and weighs half an ounce. The bill is black, ſtraight, and about half an inch long. The tongue is broad, and ends in four filaments. The head and throat are black, the cheeks white, and the back and covert of the wings green. The quill-feathers are duſky,

duſky, and tipt with blue and white. The leſſer coverts are blue, and the greater are tipt with white. The tail is about two inches and a half long, of a black colour edged with blue.

Although our gardens are ſometimes viſited by this bird, it chiefly inhabits woods, where it makes its neſt in hollow trees, and lays nine or ten eggs. This and all its tribe prey on thoſe inſects which they find in trees. Thus we perceive that birds are formed not only to delight us with their ſong and feathers, but, likewiſe, to ſerve us by deſtroying thoſe vermin that injure our ruſtic poſſeſſions. But as there is no enjoying a convenience without ſome alloy, theſe birds frequently injure our fruit gardens, by deſtroying the tender buds. Like wood-peckers, they are perpetually running up and down the trunks of trees in purſuit of their food.

BIRDS of the CRANE Kind.

THIS claſs of birds ſeem inferior to every other in their neſts, being leſs curious than thoſe of the ſparrow-kind, and the methods of obtaining their food being leſs ingenious than thoſe of the falcon kind: the pie kind excel them in cunning, and the poultry tribe are more prolific. None of this kind are, therefore, protected by man; they are neither caged like the nightingale, nor kept tame like the turkey. They lead a precarious life in fens and marſhes, or on the borders of ſeas and lakes. They live upon fiſh and inſects, and as they are obliged to wade in water and marſhy places, nature has provided them with long legs, to keep their bodies dry and clean, and long necks to dive or ſearch among the marſhes for their prey.

THOSE that feed upon inſects are eatable.

STORK.

THIS bird being ſimilar to the crane, but ſomewhat more remarkable in figure and diſpoſition, we have choſen rather to deſcribe it. This bird is white and brown in feather, and has flat nails like thoſe of a man. It makes no other noiſe than the clacking of its under chap againſt the upper. Contrary to the general diſ-

poſition

position of universal nature, the stork has as much, if not more filial affection towards its parents, than paternal affection towards its offspring. The old Storks declining with age, and being incapable of sufficiently providing for themselves, nature has implanted in their young this amiable and tender disposition to serve them in the hour of necessity, with food, and covering them with their wings. How amiable is filial piety! Who can observe the Stork never forsaking, but tenderly feeding and defending its parents, until death relieves them from the tender and amiable employment, without exclaiming, "O ye children, imitate this amiable example. Let not a simple bird upbraid and condemn you. But on the contrary, let it stimulate you to the discharge of this most pleasing duty. Let it recal to your mind, the anxious days and sleepless nights they have suffered in nursing, protecting, and promoting your welfare, and you will not fail to imitate the Stork in soothing their decline of life with the lenients of your love, care, obedience, and gratitude.

HERON.

THIS bird may be diſtinguiſhed from the Crane and Stork, by its ſmaller ſize, and much longer bill in proportion, and the middle claw of each foot being toothed like a ſaw, to ſeize, and more ſecurely hold its ſlippery prey.

So numerous is the tribe of Herons, that no leſs than forty-

forty-ſeven different ſorts have been enumerated by Brisson. Other birds fatten by abundance of food, but theſe, though exceſſively voracious, are always lean and hungry. Although they are three feet long, and five broad, they weigh no more than about three pound and half each. Notwithſtanding it is moſt formidably armed with bill and claws, it is ſo cowardly as to fly from a ſparrow-hawk. Its food is fiſh and frogs. A long abſtinence it cannot endure. So voracious is this bird, that Willoughby aſſerts one will deſtroy 15,000 carp in ſix months. It never ſwims, but wades after its prey. It lives among pools and marſhes, and builds in the higheſt trees, or on cliffs overhanging the ſea. Its fleſh that is now thought diſguſting, was formerly much eſteemed. What an inſtance is this of the capricious taſte of man! Mr. Keyster ſays, this bird frequently attains to ſixty years of age.

EGRET, OR, GREAT WHITE HERON.

THE length of this bird from the bill to the claws, is four feet and half, and to the end of the tail, three feet and a quarter. The weight is about two pounds and half. This bird is entirely white, which diſtinguiſhes it from the common Heron. It is rather ſmaller, has

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a longer tail, and no creſt. This Heron is ſeldom ſeen in England.

THERE is a bird of this kind called the leſſer white Heron, which only differs from the preceding in ſize, and having a creſt.

THE little white Heron, according to CATESBY, has a crooked red bill, with a yellow iris on the eyes, a white body, and green feet.

THE YELLOW AND GREEN HERON. To the above Herons, may be added this bird which is found near Marſeilles. The bill of the bird is black above, and yellow below, and about three inches long. The iris are white, as well as that part of the neck next the chin; but the reſt of the neck, the top of the head, the breaſt, and belly are varigated with brown lines. The feathers on the back are black, the wings yellowiſh, ſpotted with black, and the tail is ſtuck with feathers that greatly reſemble hair. The thighs are aſh-colour, the feet black, and the claws yellow.

LITTLE or BRAZIL BITTERN.

THIS bird is ſmaller than the common pigeon; but the length of its neck is about ſeven inches. The ſkin at the baſe of the bill is yellowiſh. The upper part of the head is of a ſteel colour, interſperſed with pale brown feathers. The neck, breaſt, and belly are whitiſh,

whitiſh, but the back is a mixture of black and brown. The long feathers of the wings are greeniſh, with a white ſpot at each extremity. The other parts are beautifully variegated with black, brown and aſh colour; and the feet are of a bloſſom colour. The bill is long, ſtraight, ſharp, and black at the point; the iris of the eyes is of a gold colour, and the tail does not extend beyond the wings.

SPOON-BILL OR SHOVELLER.

VIEW, ye unbelievers, this ſtrange and ſingular bird; the bill alone will convince you of their being the moſt wiſe deſign in every part of the creation. This bill is about eight inches long, and is of equal breadth and flatneſs from one end to the other. Contrary to the bills of all other birds, this bill, inſtead of being wideſt

wideſt at the baſe, and narroweſt at the point, it is wideſt at the point and narroweſt at the baſe. It ſwells out into a broad and rounded end like the bowl of a ſpoon, from which the bird derives its name. It is, however, not hollow like a ſpoon. But, whether cloſed or open, it has a very ſingular appearance.

The bird itſelf is all over as white as ſnow, and appears wonderfully pretty from its cleanlineſs. It is common in Europe, and frequents waters.

This ſtrange bill was peculiarly formed for the neceſſities of the bird. Feeding principally upon the frog which, by its cunning and activity, avoids being taken by birds with pointed bills, the Spoon-bill, being, thus provided, eaſily takes them as his prey. The bill is notched and toothed all round, to prevent the frogs eſcaping after they are once caught. Thus we perceive nature does nothing in vain. He, who can believe otherwiſe, muſt have either a weak head or a bad heart.

The Spoon-bill of America is of a delightful roſe colour, or a beautiful crimſon.

FLAMINGO.

FLAMINGO.

THE Flamingo is another remarkable inſtance of the Creator providing every thing with what its wants require. Thus is this bird provided with a moſt uncommon length of legs and neck. It is found about the ſhallow ſhores of the ſea, and the mouths of rivers. Its legs are ſo long that when it walks in the water, it appears

appears to be ſwimming. The head is almoſt conſtantly under water in ſearch of food. At this time, it appears no larger than a gooſe, from the body only being obſerved. But how great is the aſtoniſhment of the ſpectator when it comes out of the water, and preſents itſelf in height of legs and neck, like that of an oſtrich. Its height is not only ſuperior to that of any other bird, but its beauty is ſcarcely to be equalled. The body is ſnow white, the wings are ſo bright a ſcarlet as to dazzle the ſight, and the long feathers are the deepeſt black. The beak is blue, except at the tip, which is black, and its ſhape ſo ſingular as to appear broken. The legs and thighs, which are not much thicker than a man's finger, are about two feet eight inches high, and its neck near three feet long. The toes of this bird are webbed like thoſe of the duck kind; ſo that it can ſwim when the preſervation of its life requires, which is ſometimes hazarded by the ſudden riſe of wind and water, that while it is ſtanding to a great depth in ſearch of its prey, might carry the bird out to

ſea,

ſea, where it would periſh for want of its only ſubſiſtence which it finds on the ſhores.

A diſh of Flamingos' tongues, DAMPIER aſſerts, is a feaſt for an emperor.

THESE birds always go in flocks, and are found in great quantities in Canada. Their neſts are formed of mud, and reſemble very much our chimney pots. When the female lays her eggs, ſhe ſits aſtride her neſt with her legs hanging on each ſide in the water,

AVOSETTA OR SCOOPER.

THE Avoſetta is diſtinguiſhed from all other birds by the bill turning up inſtead of down. This ſingular bill is about three inches and a half long, ſlender, flexible, compreſſed very thin, and of a ſubſtance reſembling whalebone. It has a ſhort tongue, black head, and a body which is great part of it of the ſame hue.

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The tail conſiſts of twelve white feathers, the legs are very long, of a fine blue colour, and featherleſs higher than the knee. The webs are duſky and deeply indented.

The bill nature has ſo peculiarly formed in order to enable the bird to ſcoop out of the ſand, thoſe worms and inſects on which it feeds. The bird lays two eggs, about the ſize of thoſe of the pigeon. They are white tinged with green and ſpotted with black, Theſe birds are frequently ſeen in winter on the eaſtern ſhores of the kingdom: in Glouceſterſhire, at the mouth of the Severn; and ſometimes on the lakes of Shropſhire. It has a chirping lively note, and frequently wades in the waters.

CURLEW.

THIS bird weighs about 27 ounces. Its length from the top of the bill to the end of the claws is 29 inches, and the breadth between the extreme points of the wings extended is three feet four inches. The bill, which is near six inches long, is narrow, a little crook-

ed, and of a dark brown colour. The legs are long, bare, and of a duſky blue, having a thick membrane meetin g at the firſt joint. This bird is of a greyiſh colour, and its fleſh is very rank and fiſhy, notwithſtanding the Engliſh proverb in its favour. In the winter time, Curlews frequent our coaſts in large flocks, walking on the ſands in ſearch of their prey, which is crabs, and other marine inſects. In ſummer they retire to the mountanous part of the country, where they pair and breed. Their legs are of a pale olive colour, marked with irregular brown ſpots.

THE leſſer Curlew, called alſo the Wimbrel, greatly reſembles the larger. The chief difference is in the ſize, this being ſo much ſmaller as to weigh only twelve ounces.

Of WATER-FOWL in General.

THE great diſtinction between water and land fowl, is the toes being webbed for ſwimming. Thoſe who obſerve the feet or toes of a duck will eaſily conceive how admirably they are formed to move in the watery element to which they are moſtly deſtined. What man performs by art, when he cloſes his fingers in ſwimming, water-fowl is ſupplied by nature to perform. The toes are ſo contrived, that as they ſtrike backward, the broadeſt hollow ſurface beats the water, but as they draw them in again, their front ſurface contracts ſo as not to impede the bird's progreſſive motion.

A water-fowl walks with much difficulty. They, therefore, ſeldom breed far from the ſides of waters where they uſually reſort.

As the moſt worthy notice, we ſhall chooſe the Pelican, as a ſubject for deſcription.

PELICAN.

LOVERS of the marvellous, have related ſtrange wonders of this bird. The tale reſpecting the care of its young, has been ſo generally received, as to be frequently adduced as an example for man to imitate.

The beak is peculiarly uncommon. But in other reſpects the bird differs very little from the ſwan. It is

ſo

ſo bulky and unwieldy, that it is only adapted for water. The note is very loud and ſtrange for a bird; ſome compare it to the braying of an aſs, and others, that it is like the voice of a man grievouſly complaining. DAVID compares his groaning to the pelican of the wilderneſs, and the owl of the deſert.

THE beak is very long and large. It is about a foot long, and as thick as the bottom part of a child's arm. The colour is rather blue and yellow, and the point is very ſharp. The lower chap differs from every thing of the kind in nature. It is made of two long and flat ribs, with a rough membrane connected to both, in the form of a bag, which extending to the throat, is large enough to hold a conſiderable quantity of food to ſupply the bird in times of ſcarcity. Feeding her young from this bag, had ſo much the appearance of feeding them with her own blood, that it muſt have been the cauſe of this fabulous opinion being propagated. Thus aroſe the Pelican being choſen as an emblem of paternal, as the Stork has been more juſtly, of filial affection. It is thonght to be ſo long-lived, as to live 60 or 70 years.

FULMAR.

THIS bird is found in the iſland of St. Kilda, where it ſupplies the inhabitants with oil for their lamps, down for their beds, a balſam for their wounds, a delicacy for their tables, and a medicine for their diſeaſes. It denotes, likewiſe, the change of wind.

THIS bird is larger than the common Gull; the bill is very ſtrong, yellow, and hooked at the end.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH SONG BIRDS.

ABERDIVINE. This bird reſembles, in ſize and colour, the Grey Canary. The Cock is diſtinguiſhed by a black ſpot on his head, and a little black under the throat: the hen is greyer, has a ſpotted breaſt and belly. They are both familiar, and are eaſily taken by any trap or device of the leaſt contrivance.

FOOD. THEY love white ſeed, but they are moſtly fed like Linnets and Goldfinches.

BLACK-BIRD. The cock is generally the blackeſt while young, and it has a yellow circle round the eyes. The bill continues black until it is a year old, when it turns perfectly yellow, which deepens as the bird grows old. And his dark ruſſet feathers with his aſh coloured belly, turn then a coal black.

THE hen is diſtinguiſhed by having the tip and upper part of the bill black.

FOOD. When young they ſhould be fed every two hours with lean freſh meat, minced very ſmall with bread, a little moiſtened. When older, they may be fed with any raw or dreſſed meat that is not ſtale or

ſour. They ſhould have water to waſh and prune their feathers.

BULL-FINCH. This bird is greatly eſteemed for its beauty and ſinging. To diſtinguiſh the cock from the hen you muſt pull a few feathers from the breaſt, when they are about three week's old. Thoſe of the cock will be of a curious red, and thoſe of the hen of a pale brown.

Food. When young, they ſhould have rape-ſeed, ſoaked in clean water for eight or ten hours, then ſcalded, ſtrained, and bruiſed, mixed with an equal quantity of white bread, ſoaked in water, boiled with a little milk, and made freſh every day, to prevent its turning ſour and ſpoiling the birds. When they can feed themſelves, they ſhould have rape and canary-ſeed, mixing moſt rape as for Linnets. If they droop, put a blade of faffron in their water.

CHAFFINCH. The cock Chaffinch at about ten or twelve days old has much white in his wings and pinnions, a reddiſh breaſt, and all his feathers higher and more brilliantly coloured than thoſe of the hen. An old cock has a blueiſh head, a reddiſh brown back, mixed with green or aſh colour, a fine purple red breaſt, and a white belly. The hen's feathers are grey on the breaſt.

Food. This Bird may be fed as the Green-Finch, or Linnet.

GOLD-FINCH. This bird, by ſome called the Thiſtle-Finch, from living in winter moſtly on thiſtle-ſeeds, is greatly admired for its ſong and beauty; it is reckoned the fineſt feathered of all the cage birds, and ſo long lived, that Willoughby mentions one to have lived twenty-three years, The cock is chiefly diſtinguiſhed by a curious ſcarlet circle round the fore part of his head or the baſis of the bill.

Food. When young, they ſhould have white bread ſoaked in clean water to a very thick conſiſtence. To this, add a little flour of canary-ſeed. They ſhould be fed at leaſt every two hours, very ſparingly, and with freſh made food every day. In about a month after, you may wean them gradually from this ſoft food, by giving them ſome canary-ſeed beſide, until they can be brought to live on the latter entirely.

GREEN-FINCH, Otherwiſe the Green-Linnet, and the Green-Bird, is of a ſtrong, hardy nature, and rather larger than the Chaffinch. The head and back of the cock are green edged with grey. The middle of the back is inclined to the cheſnut. The fore part of his head, neck, breaſt, and quite down the belly and rump, are of a yellow green.

Food.

Food. This bird may be fed as the Chaffinch or Linnet.

SPARROW. The Hedge Sparrow is capable of being tamed ſo as to fly about the houſe without any apprehenſions of its ſtraying. It will take the ſong of the beſt ſinging-birds, if it be properly placed with them. The cock has a long, ſlender, duſky coloured bill. The upper ſide of his body is black, mixed with a dirty red, and the breaſt is black.

Food. When taken at twelve days old, they may be fed wi h minced freſh meat and bread, or with Wood-lark's meat. When brought up, they may be fed with hemp and canary. If drooping, mix with it a little oatmeal.

Common LINNET. This bird is ſaid to excel all ſmall Engliſh birds in its ſinging. The note is curious and he can imitate the ſong of any other bird. The cock is diſtinguiſhed by having a browner back than the hen, and by the whiteneſs of its wings. When the wings are full grown, the ſecond, third or fourth feather is white up to the quill.

Food. They ſhould be fed with ſome of the ſeed gathered from the land where they are taken, mixed with

with a little bruiſed hemp-ſeed. When caged, a ſmall quantity of canary, and a few corns of hemp ſhould be given to them. If drooping, a little lettuce-ſeed, and a ſmall piece of liquorice or ſaffron put in their water, will revive them. Chick-weed is alſo a great reſtorative to the Linnet.

NIGHTINGALE. The Nightingale is reckoned the beſt of ſong-birds. The cock is diſtinguiſhed by its deeper and higher colours in grown birds. In neſtlings, when he has eaten, he gets upon the perch and begins to tune to himſelf.

Food. Give him three times a week two or three meal-worms, or worms taken out of a pigeon's houſe, or two or three ſpiders a day, to purge them. When his fat declines, give him in his water a little ſaffron. Figs chopped ſmall among their meat will recover their fleſh when they are very thin.

RED-POLE Is very prettily feathered. The head and breaſt of the cock are of a fine red, and much more brilliant than thoſe of the hen. It is not much eſteemed for its ſinging, although it has rather an agreeable note. Its neſt never being found in England, denotes that it muſt be a foreign bird.

It is taken and fed as the Linnet.

RED-START.

RED-START. The cock is a very beautiful bird. The tail, rump, and breaſt are of a fine red. The back, neck, and hind part of the head are of a lead colour. The throat, and fore part of the head are jet black, and it has a white mark on the pole. He is diſtinguiſhed moſtly from the hen, by its black head. He doubles his notes very finely, and will ſing in the night as well as the day.

Food. He ſhould be fed and managed as the Nightingale.

ROBIN-RED-BREAST. This bird is naturally ſolitary. But when impelled by cold, it becomes daring, familliar, and ſociable. The red on the breaſt of the cock is deeper, and extends farther upon the head than on the hen's. His legs are alſo darker, and he has generally a few hairs on each ſide of his bill.

Food. Feed them in the ſame manner as the Woodlark, or Nightingale. But as they are very tender, be careful not to overcharge their ſtomachs. Never let them want freſh water, and once a week put in it a blade of ſaffron.

SKY-LARK. At about a month old, the cock may be known by his notes, though low, being diſtinctly altered. In old birds, the cock is the lighteſt coloured,

coloured, has a browner back, a yellower throat and breaſt, and a whtie belly.

Food. Give them egg, bread, and bruiſed hemp-ſeed, with red ſand in the bottom of the cage, and they will grow tame in two or three days. The neſtlings ſhould be fed every two hours with white bread and milk, mixed with one third part of rape-ſeed ſoaked, boiled, and well bruiſed. A ſheep's heart or other freſh meat, minced ſmall, is good food for them, for a week's time, they ſhould have a hard egg chopped very fine, an equal quantity of hemp-ſeed bruiſed, and a little bread grated among it. Give them a turf of three-leaved graſs twice a week to perch upon.

STARLING. Having deſcribed the Starling in the former part of this volume, we have only to obſerve, he may be fed as the Black-bird, or Wood-lark,

THRUSH or THROSTLE. The Thruſh has a great variety of note, and ſings nine months in the year, The feathers of the cock differ from thoſe of the hen, in beauty, ſleekneſs, and brilliancy.

Food. When full grown, feed them with freſh meat, raw, boiled, or roaſted, and mixed with bread. This agrees beſt with them, but they may be brought to feed entirely on bread or hemp-ſeed. They ſhould

have

have a freſh pan of water twice a week. When they are cramped, put fern or clean ſtraw on the bottom of the cage, and feed them as they lie with Nightingale's meat.

TITLARK. This bird is handſomely ſhaped, and excelled by very few of the birds. It has no remarkable ſong, unleſs the cock is remarkably excellent when it will ſing like a Canary-bird. The neſtling cock has more yellow, eſpecially under the throat, legs, and ſoles of the feet than the hen has in thoſe parts.

TOM-TIT. Tom-Tit, otherwiſe Joe-Bent, is a very pleaſing bird, and has a pretty ſong. They will thrive with bread and cheeſe, and when grown up, with hemp-ſeed. But they reliſh the Wood-lark's food the beſt.

TWITE. This bird is ſuppoſed to be a native of Germany. He viſits this iſland in winter. It is very briſk, merry, and is always ſinging. It is gentle, familiar, and is hung among other birds to provoke them to ſing. The cock is known by a red ſpot on the rump.

Food. When caged, they are fed with rape and canary; but they like the canary beſt.

WOOD-LARK. The Wood-lark is eſteemed as the beſt ſong-bird in the kingdom. It ſings nine

months in the year. The cock is beſt known by its ſize and ſong.

Food. When they come to their meat, give them hard egg, chopped and minced with crumbs of bread, a little hemp and maw-ſeed. One egg is enough for ſix larks. They may be ſometimes fed with minced meat as other birds. But give them no turf in their cage.

WREN is the ſmalleſt of ſong birds, being only about four inches long, from the end of the bill to the end of the tail. This bird, however, has a very loud ſong. The cock has a dark brown back and head, a white breaſt and belly, and a bright yellow-variegated with dark lines, tail and wings.

Food. The Wren may be fed as the Nightingale. But when ſick, two or three flies, or as many ſpiders

CANARY BIRD. This being the moſt eſtimable bird for its note among thoſe who delight in ſinging birds, although it be foreign, yet we could not avoid inſerting a ſhort account of the bird itſelf and its food in this volume.

It derives its name from the Canary Iſles, its original native country. Of the ſeveral colours, thoſe which have white tails are the leaſt valued. The mottled birds are thoſe which are chiefly brought into this county

country by the Germans. The cocks are of a lively yellowiſh colour. The hens are of a duſky white.

To chooſe a good Canary, obſerve that he ſtands boldly, ſtraitly, and uprightly upon his perch. Let his looks be ſprightly, full of life and vigour. Let him look freely at you, looking at him, without his fluttering or beating himſelf.

Give the Canary bird now and then maw-ſeed, in which he principally delights. Put ſometimes a bit of loaf-ſugar between the wires of his cage. In warm weather, give him a little ſeedy chick-weed or groundſel. The fine leaf of a young radiſh, heart of a cabbage, goſs ſileſia lettuce, or endive, will ſerve to vary their food, which being thus changed, prevents their loſs of appetite, and other ſickneſſes, cauſed by keeping them on the ſame diet.

FINIS.